

FBIS

DAILY REPORT

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ALFONSIN ADDRESSES ARMED FORCES BANQUET

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[Speech by President Raul Alfonsin, in his capacity as commander in chief of the Armed Forces, at the Armed Forces banquet held in the General San Martin Hall of the Libertador Building, Army headquarters in Buenos Aires -- live]

[Text] National authorities, Messrs chiefs, Messrs high-ranking officers, and Messrs officers: I once again have the honor of presiding over this banquet of the men in arms to recall another anniversary of the birth of the fatherland. As I wore the uniform of the Argentine Army for 5 years at an age when principle and ideals make a deep impression on the soul, I do not feel at all foreign to the concerns, sadness, and hopes of all of you. Today I am commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and I will address these issues with absolute responsibility.

As in the days of the war for independence, in the days of our glorious forefathers, both civilian and military, together we are facing a historical challenge, on which, to a large extent, our life as a nation depends. At a time when we are being attacked without pity by the most important crisis of our times we have not only opted to defend ourselves, we have also decided to go on the offensive. Our objective is not only survival. If we have touched bottom, then from there we must seek strength to emerge as a fully sovereign country. We know that we can never be a fully sovereign country if we do not undergo the indispensable process of the modernization of all our structures and if we do not integrate with the civilized world, which is based on legitimacy and order. A stage is being closed in the history of the Argentine Republic, a stage that was crushing us, and a new stage is beginning, one in which all of us will look to the future, each one carrying out his duty.

The Argentine Armed Forces have not been able to avoid a situation of total stagnation, or it could even be called a situation of regression, which has been affecting the national institutions for the past 50 years.

Moreover, the present military situation is the outcome of a set of circumstances and negative aspects that are worth pointing out. The long period of peace and tranquillity that the country enjoyed from the beginning of this century through the 1970's generated important maladjustments that have not been corrected, and thus are still felt today. The increasing lack of government interest in questions of national defense and military policy led the Armed Forces to tackle these issues on their own, thus depriving the country of policies for more than 60 years. When that period came to an abrupt end, the country was confronted with a situation of unbearable internal convulsion, a serious conflict with Chile, and a war for which paradoxically the responsible de facto government did not have a defense or clear military policy. The training, drafting, juridical improvement, career planning, in sum, everything that is necessary for the revitalization and modernization of the Armed Forces was postponed, giving way to progressive bureaucratization and overgrowth to the detriment of operational capacity. Professional enthusiasm suffered, especially in the hierarchy's higher stratum. There the focus turned to questions of internal politics and the nurturing of the process of the deplorable military interventions in government. A distorted concept of national security was, in turn, a factor that caused great organizational, functional, and even conceptual distortions that had serious consequences from the standpoint of the state of law. In this way, new distortions were introduced, notably that of a real hypertrophy of intelligence personnel and agencies that are out of line with their real, specific, and technical functions.

Even more serious is the fact that all these distortions occurred by disregarding the principle of the unity of command in the context of three nonintegrated, independent services with functions many times superior to those of the state and at times marked by strong rivalries among the services.

The conflict with Chile in 1978 forced an abrupt and sudden change of orientation which, in the end, did not prove sufficient to affirm the higher echelons of command and the interservice control. Moreover, there was a lack of joint training, adequate equipment, and preparation of any kind. This is how we entered the Malvinas Islands.

You, gentlemen, know better than anyone else and are better aware of the tremendous lesson learned from the painful wound opened in all Argentines. We must admit that the tremendous task we have at hand is so great that we are not going to solve our military problems with the preposterous idea of a reorganization or by increasing the size of the force. The task implies and involves both of these steps, but demands much more. For this reason, I invite you to view the military reform as a real challenge, because that is how it should be. We really want to provide the nation with the Armed Forces that each situation requires; forces whose size and preparation will be in accordance with our own possibilities; forces that must necessarily be integrated as a team that can operate jointly, modernized on the basis of new career plans that will improve the capability of the cadres, and reequipped with the most effective and modern means; forces that will definitely fully guarantee the territorial integrity of our large country within the framework of the strategy that emerges clearly from our current situation.

Military reform, with the loftier objective we have just described, must seek a new moral standard within the framework of absolute respect for institutional order, nurtured by the professional enthusiasm granted by the conviction that each member as an individual and each group must join the great national reconstruction project.

This manner of military reform is the policy this government is forced to implement as the best answer to the critical situation that in many aspects the Armed Forces and their members are enduring. As the commander in chief of the Armed Forces, I am aware of the number and significance of the difficulties to be tackled by this reform program. However, I am also aware of the strength, professional enthusiasm, and skill you all possess. I believe these qualities are the best guarantees for success. I am aware and I hope that all citizens are also aware of the tremendous efforts made by the Armed Forces' cadres, especially by the chief of the joint staff and the chiefs of the specific staffs, to overcome decisively and as genuine military officers the limitations and obstacles imposed by our economic crisis.

Exemplary conduct within the framework of an obligatory austerity only confirms the expectations that have encouraged us when, from the beginning of our tenure, we expressed our conviction that the relationship between a commander and his men begins with obedience, understood as an adequate balance between freedom and a strongly exercised authority. This relationship is also nurtured by loyalty that has been conceived on the basis of reciprocity and which inspires both the high-ranking officers and subordinates in the mission of defending the sovereignty and institutions of the nation.

This conduct will be absolutely necessary in current times, because I do not think I exaggerate when I say that today Argentina is facing the greatest challenge of its history, that of its own reconstruction, starting from a state of decadence that had corroded it in every way.

Although today the economic aspect of reconstruction is at the forefront due to its dramatic pressure, it is only a part of an overall task that obliges us to carry out, reassess, and reorganize structural habits, forms of coexistence, and forms of articulation between society's various sectors.

All the components of our community life have been falling by the way during the past few decades in a process of decadence and disintegration so great that we are now obliged to undertake an overall reconstruction. Any attempt to reconstruct any one sector will fail if it is undertaken in an isolated way. What we have to do is restructure the country, with a clear understanding of the model of the nation that we desire.

If I were asked to define in a few words the key component of the historical process that led us to our current state of prostration, I would characterize it as a progressive loss of our state of legality. During the past 50 years the entire country has been cultivating ever-increasing inclinations toward direct action, toward the illegal shortcut, and toward explicit or implicit violence. A society can be regarded as an integrated whole only if it has a common set of rules that is acknowledged and respected by everyone.

That is to say that we must realize that our actions and interactions must be subjected to rules that are valid for the entire social body. In fact, the social whole comes undone when this overview is lost, when the groups that make up the whole try to attain their own ends by disregarding the juridical order, when these groups have objectives that can only be attained by violating the juridical rules that regulate the whole of society. This loss of the juridical perception and of the feeling of social integration that can only be based on legality has played a relevant role in the past coups d'etat.

The recourse to direct action plagued the country's history in the first half of this century. An excess of simple-mindedness led us to attribute coups -- the propensity to ignore legality and to subvert the integrating norms of society -- to the military, to a single sector of the country, relieving the other sectors of responsibility. This view of the coups is not borne out by reality, and if we adhere to this view when interpreting our recent history, we will not understand the basic factors of our decadence and, consequently, not know what to do to overcome it. The coups have always been civilian-military in character. The undoubted military responsibility for their operational aspects should not make us forget the heavy responsibility of the civilians who plotted them and gave them ideological bases. The coups always reflected the loss of the sense of legality inherent in society, not just the loss of the sense of legality by the military.

Consequently, it would be absurd to expect that coupism can be overcome by more military self-criticism, or by the sway of civilians over the military. Coupism can only be overcome if the entire Argentine society reflects on itself. This is the only realistic and historically objective criterion that can help us find the starting point of the effort to thoughtfully reconstruct the nation's unity. We would commit an injustice and an error in interpretation of our recent history if we were to think that only the coups have reflected the loss of the sense of legality.

This decadence in our perception of legality has also found grave channels of expression in regions that were only formally constitution, in fraudulent practices, in abuses of power, in the idea that the majority can ignore the rights of the minorities. All this has been in the past examples of the propensity to violence and direct action. They are pieces of the rubble over which we must rebuild the country.

In this historical context characterized by what we can call a state of illegality, terrorism emerged during the past few decades. Although it is true that this phenomenon has been imported from foreign models and ideological slogans from other parts of the world, it would be a gross mistake to think that these models and slogans can provide the full explanation for the presence and dissemination of terrorism in Argentina.

The vast structural context, where the concept of legality is weak, provided the breeding ground for terrorism, one of the cruelest and bloodiest forms of direct action.

Arbitrary fraud, abuse of power, authoritarianism, oppression of the minority groups, coup attempts -- all of which are components of an implicit and explicit overall picture of violence -- created a disruptive cultural picture that, with the participation of practically the entire Argentine society, served to encourage a terrorist escalation.

To struggle against terrorism without tackling that cultural aspect, or worse still, to struggle against it without taking the cultural aspect into account, would lead to sterile results. It might do away with it temporarily, but it would leave the necessary conditions for terrorism to reappear. Therefore, the struggle against terrorism will only be successful if it is tackled as if it were an internal struggle against each and every one of us, a struggle by the entire Argentine society against the roots of its own cultural decay. Terrorism cannot be defeated if the expressions of illegality still remain. Either they are all (?defeated) or terrorism will remain latent. There is nothing more mistaken than to demand the survival of authoritarian structures, behaviors, or practices as a preventive means against terrorism. To demand their survival would mean establishing the ground for terrorism to reappear.

The path to be taken is exactly the opposite. We must start a gigantic cultural reform that will establish overall respect for norms of coexistence that will safeguard civil rights, that will spread tolerance to all sectors, that will safeguard public liberties, that will rid Argentine society of fear. All of this is called democracy.

The only alternative to a culture of illegality is a democratic culture. If we struggle against terrorism under democracy and for democracy, we will have secured success without having to go to dramatic extremes, because we will be faced with a weak, isolated, and undernourished terrorism, lacking a culture of illegality that will justify its existence and strengthen its recruiting capacity.

During the past few years several sectors of Argentine society fell into the tragic error of believing that by sacrificing democracy, better conditions would be created for the fight against the plague of terrorism. However, all that was achieved was to have state terrorism with the same cruelty, violence, and disdain for life that was allegedly to have been fought in terrorism.

To choose the direct action of the state as an alternative to the direct action of terrorism unavoidably implies the copying, assimilating, absorbing, and adopting, within the state itself and by those who control it, the methodology and the culture of violence that in theory the state aspires to suppress. To undertake the fight on these terms makes no sense at all. Therefore, the consolidation of internal security, in the measure that it is understood as security against violence, security against fear, and security against abuse of power, arbitrariness and high-handedness can only be guaranteed by the full implementation of democratic legality, not only in the internal institutional order of the state, but also in the conscience of all Argentines. Once legality is thus installed, it will not be able to take root nor will it be able to develop to the fullest unless this legality forgets its strictures on judging the past.

We know perfectly well that there are those who confuse justice with vengeance and that disintegrating forces are still on the move in Argentina's disorganized society who would like us to believe that those who are seated in the chair of the accused are not individuals but the Armed Forces. I want to make it perfectly clear that those persons who act in that manner are insulting the nation's institutions and the president's office itself, because by mandate of the Constitution the president exercises the role of the supreme commander of the Armed Forces.

We are talking about our Armed Forces, the Armed Forces that even before being formalized demonstrated in August 1806 the appropriate attitude and capability to defend South America from the invasion of the British. The Armed Forces that, when the last grenadiers returned from the Chilean and Peruvian campaigns, were acknowledged by all of South America and became known beyond the borders of the recently born independent nation without any other objective than to guarantee the freedom of nations.

What is serious, very serious, in a civilized society is that unviable tendencies should appear and that, because of an unexplainable derangement or fanaticism, there should also emerge in the midst of our Armed Forces men who may have the same tendencies, causing identical confusion. Decidedly they cannot remain with us, we must avoid their corruptive presence, because all of us know that during these 170 years, since 9 July 1816, there have been many agreements and disagreements, of light and shadow, of happiness and sadness, but the desired objective and the type of action to obtain it remain for the Armed Forces the same as those that are written into the act of independence, to put all our talents into the rectitude of our intentions in order to achieve freedom full of the saintly order of justice.

We must prevent new distortions. Our society has been in a crisis for many years. Confrontations outside the Constitution and institutions were caused by society's various political, economic, and organizational components. This process worsened as time passed, and it is quite natural that it should have happened in a country where development was replaced by backwardness. The Armed Forces, of course, did not go unscathed. It was sought to turn their role as the armed branch at the service of the legitimate state's defense into the armed branch of illegitimate powers to use it for purposes which had little to do with defending the fatherland. The country's economy was disrupted as well as the state and, even more so, the country's society. The Armed Forces cannot be a normal component of the institutions when those institutions lose force and do not fulfill their objectives.

It is not a matter now of making charges or distributing responsibilities. This is not our task. I believe that neither will it be that of the historians who must objectively reconstruct the interference and reasons for the events that occurred.

We are all aware that those turbulent and decadent periods of our history, the promoting of authoritarianism and a constitutional breakdown, were stirred up by various sectors of Argentine society. All the institutions regressed in a country that instead of making progress was going in reverse. The military, instead of defending the national community, became their leaders and administrators, which obviously means ignoring the true essence of the Armed Forces' role in a civilized, modern, and complex nation. Even when a military man has been successful as head of state, he has become a politician and has ceased to be a militaryman. This could not be a valid proposal for the entire institution.

We can and will become a progressive, modern country. Within this framework, the Armed Forces will also play a modern and creative role. They will no longer be tools of power used in an illegitimate manner, but rather true state institutions formed by citizens of all possible sectors that have decided to give their lives to defend those of others. This offering, in turn, should be equally matched by the remainder of society: a free, democratic, and growing society. This is what any military man who is willing to defend it deserves. How can we ask a man to place his life at stake for the sake of injustice, authoritarianism, or impoverishment. A human life is worth more than that.

Life is the loftiest value of our civilization, and it should only be sacrificed for social values and interests that measure up to its dignity. This happens in the great and ancient West European countries from which we inherited our culture and a good part of our inhabitants originated.

The Constitution, fatherland, progress, home, development, and social solidarity are values that are fundamental to militarymen who have proudly assumed the mission to defend those noble social communities. We must offer our military the same opportunity to have that sense of pride, and we must bury in history forever other periods when decadence and tyranny did not afford to any Argentine, including the military, the possibility of playing a dignified role.

The weakness of Argentine society, the decadence of its institutions, the shrinking of its productive apparatus, and the loosening of the natural mechanisms of social cohesiveness have driven all its members into a confused struggle for survival. This situation was also the substratum for the emergence and growth of groups which, behind the banner of protest against injustice and disorder, attempted to institute a new authoritarian order. Many Argentine youths fell into the moral trap of terrorism, and our troubled society could only respond with a form of repression that was not backed by ideals rooted in a consistent and truthful reality. These youths were the children of lies, and thus they were easy prey to new lies. Let us assume the responsibility for that tragedy, as well as the tragedy of the militarymen who had to defend principles the effective practice of which was abandoned by society itself.

In many European countries besieged by terrorism in recent years, the answer of the institutions was firm, sure, and effective without in the least distorting the principle of legality. It has been so because they are solid societies in which the values of democracy and civilized coexistence are upheld as tangible and living realities by the majority of the citizens. Law enforcement officials and institutions are strong because society is strong, because democracy is not a proposition but the everyday framework within which all the citizens are used to living, a democracy that they all want to defend with the clear conviction that democracy can only be defended with democratic methods, because, if not, they would be surrendering to the enemy. This determined will decided the failure and the defeat of the enemies of democracy. These enemies succumbed politically because of the firmness with which they were confronted within the strict legal boundaries, as well as by the isolation and indignation they have elicited in all the social body.

The thrust of terrorism took our country by surprise, in a very different situation in which the institutions were not trusted, in which the savage rule of the individual survival prevailed, in which the groups were determined to defend their sectorial interests. Dissociating and authoritarian doctrines of the most diverse orientation pretended for decades to confine the military within the absurd limits of an even more absurd dilemma: to be the saviors or the enemies of the nation.

In a modern and democratic society, the military is merely citizens taking up arms in defense of the nation's values and its legal and political organization in the face of external threats. We must recover without hesitation that lofty sense of the military as part of civic life. Those in the military are full-fledged citizens, who, out of a noble calling and noble decision, have accepted the mission to prepare and organize the common defense of the nation and the republican state. This function is distorted whenever the system fails, when it experiences crisis and disarray. The function of the Armed Forces then loses its significance, its ethical foundations crumble.

The greatest lesson in military morality in the face of this type of situation was bequeathed to us by the greatest soldier in our history. Jose de San Martin was great because of his strategic talent, his patriotism, and spirit of service to the national cause. He was also great because of his unswerving adherence to the basis of military ethics. He could never conceive of military duty as anything but total service in defense of the nation. When he abandoned the country, he did so precisely to avoid betraying his mission as a soldier in the service of republican institutions.

Thus, a painful period in our history began. The Armed Forces became the armed branches of the different social and political factions engaged in disputes. This was repugnant to the ethics, and to the military and republican spirit of the liberator. Once this period of confusion and laceration ended, the Armed Forces were restored to their proper function during the national reorganization.

As in any civilized country, our modern Armed Forces are destined to be a fundamental part of the state apparatus. Our modern Armed Forces were the children of the Constitution and the law that established their functions and their significance.

Whenever the Constitution is ignored and the laws are considered relative rules, whenever the principle of the division of powers and popular representation in the government are ignored, the Armed Forces cease to be the armed branch of the nation. They can act better or worse, foment confusion or contribute to reorganization, but in practice they operate as autonomous groups of citizens in arms. The Constitution wisely provides for the president of the nation to be the supreme commander of the Armed Forces, thus confirming that they are part of the state. When there is no president elected through the constitutional process, the Armed Forces have no commander in chief and automatically lose their character as a state constitution.

So the relentless defense of the Constitution must represent for the military the defense of its own dignity, of its own ethical and social character, of its role as a legitimate part of the community having a specific mission.

The Argentines cannot continue supporting outmoded structures, repeating old behavior patterns, reacting in the same way to old problems. We have closed the door on 50 years of decadence. We have decided to build the country we deserve.

To this effect, we must always keep in mind that the road of transition will be long; it will be a mixture of the dying Argentina and the emerging Argentina. We will constantly come to crossroads where we must choose between the road that leads back to the past, to a historical retreat, to the stagnation of our efforts; and the road that points to the future, to a horizon of harmony and progress. In this new march, we must also keep in mind the need to walk together, civilians and military together, advancing down the same road with the same hopes and the same destiny.

Our history of disagreements has been too long: divisions among civilians; ineptitude and lack of courage in leaders; irresponsibility, sometimes, in those who attained the honor of managing a fundamental state institution, but chose to take it down a road the Argentines should never have allowed. There was a lack of respect for law and institutions, and subversion of our national values.

In this moral crisis, we all have our share of responsibility, and thus we must accept our share of blame without distinction. The blame falls on the shoulders of those who, serving selfish interests, sought the support of the men in arms to impose their will and break the will of the people and their institutions. It also falls on the shoulders of those who silently accepted the imposition of force and violence. Likewise it falls on those who, moved by hatred, resorted to terror as a weapon of political struggle, trampling lofty values and spilling the blood of our youth, as well as on those who resorted to the same methods to fight terrorism.

The Argentines have had enough of this nightmare. We have closed one harrowing period in our history and are opening another in which there will be clarification, justice, and truth. We appeal to the conscience of all Argentines, regardless of their role in the period of sad experiences, to participate in an exercise of acute self-criticism and moral self-improvement.

We are beginning to build the foundation of a modern Argentina upon the rubble. Building a modern country includes rebuilding our Armed Forces and restoring their specific role in society. Otherwise, we will not be able to think of a better future, of a country on the road to growth and freedom. We can achieve all this through effective and definitive common action in which all of us should participate.

It falls to us as leaders, as members of a generation that has suffered the onslaught of violence and destruction, to assume the responsibility for building a new nation based on its original values. It falls to us to respond satisfactorily to the demands of the younger generation, which refuses to accept ambiguous answers and postponement of the dictates of their consciences and of their actions. They have seen their fathers fight. They have inherited a long sequence of mistakes, truncated projects, and broken hopes as the conflicted legacy of a mismanaged country. We failed to give them answers before, and they were enmeshed in hatred and terror, in convulsions of aggression and violence.

Never has Argentina suffered as much as it did in the past decade, never as in recent years, which abandoned many to their own devices, trampling on the efforts of an Argentina that struggled to be reborn. Never has it been as necessary as it is today to recognize the truth, to admit errors, to reject forms and procedures that we must avoid.

The past has no place in the present. We have ended forever authoritarianism and the unilateral decisions that subverted our institutional order. We have restored the constitutional, republican, and democratic order as the only context in which people and institutions can act and fully develop their capacities. What we have achieved in the second year of freedom is much more than we can understand sometimes.

We must also be fully aware that the wounds inflicted on the nation's social body have been deep. The legal norms are not enough; the actions of government are not enough; the will of the leaders is insufficient to heal the wounds of the past that have been neglected.

We have made unprecedented and auspicious achievements, which show that this time truth, justice, and the defense of human dignity are not mere hopes. We now need to march together, with the heart of society together, toward the definitive reconciliation of the Argentines, with an elevated sense of justice based on social ethics.

I do not believe that periods can be dictated by decree. Chapters of history cannot be closed by a single leader, whatever his motivation. Rather it is fundamental that there is an awareness of this question and that a consensus exists. It is society, in an act of severe contrition and recognition of its identity, that must evaluate the experience of the past and decide to face the future looking forward, marching resolutely, being both humble and bold.

Looking forward means responding ethically to the hopes of the young, who no longer want to be cannon fodder; it means not allowing our youth to be turned into a herd of meek sheep, driven to skepticism and frustration; it means placing the value of life and coexistence among reconciled people above everything else; it means establishing legal and moral responsibilities in the collective memory of our society; and it means the assumption of a share of regret by each individual and each sector. Now, in this way, we can start to work, looking forward. No more violence, no more taking justice into one's own hands with disregard for the law, no more arrogance and intolerance in today's Argentina.

We have not closed the door on our history; we do not treat lightly or condescendingly those who must assume responsibility before history and society. We are not indulging in partisan politics. We are doing nothing more than trying to consolidate the march of a united people toward their dignity. To achieve this it is fundamental that reconciliation be attained.

PRESIDENT PUSHES FOR MILITARY PROMOTIONS

PY031723 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 3 July 85 p 14

[Text] (NA-DYN) -- President Raul Alfonsin yesterday called in Defence Minister Roque Carranza and Under Secretary Horacio Jaunarena for an unscheduled meeting -- the second in 48 hours between Alfonsin and Carranza. A Defense Ministry statement afterwards said talk centred on the recent military promotions considered by the Senate, Alfonsin's speech on Friday at a dinner with officers, and preparations for the July 9 military parade.

Alfonsin reportedly said he would press the Senate to reconsider the promotions of three military officers blocked during a closed-door session two weeks ago. The three officers kept behind are Army Colonel Francisco D'Allessandri, Lieutenant-Colonel Julio Cesar Durand and Navy Captain Roberto Pertussio.

Reliable sources said Alfonsin plans to send important signals to officers during the traditional Armed Forces comradeship dinner on Friday night.

The military corps are reportedly disgruntled over low salaries, reduced budgets and the trial of the nine former junta chiefs. The trial has especially affected the Army, where many officers have been implicated and others called in to testify.

Yesterday it was reported that Army Chief-of-Staff Hector Rios Erenu radioed all bases last week with instructions related to the trial. Officers in the Federal Capital and Greater Buenos Aires who are called to testify in the trial must first present themselves to Army headquarters to be briefed on their situation. Affected base commanders in the interior are to present themselves first to the local courts accompanied by their brigade leader while brigade leaders called to testify are to be accompanied by the corps commander.

In Congress, meanwhile, Peronist Deputy Luis Sobrino Aranda criticized the government's defence draft law for not considering the possibility of "an internal conflict" which might require a response by the Armed Forces.

TROCCOLI ON AMNESTY FOR 'DIRTY WAR' EXCESSES

PY031733 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 3 Jul 85 p 14

[Text] (NA-DYN) -- Interior Minister Antonio Troccoli yesterday escalated one stage further the growing issue of an amnesty for excesses committed during the "dirty war" campaign against leftwing subversion by admitting the government was studying "somewhat similar" to an amnesty law which would "only exempt from responsibility those who had to obey orders."

Meanwhile, former Army Chief of Staff Jorge Arguindegui said there was "no point" in reforming the military code of justice in order to redefine the concept of due obedience, a form of indirect amnesty which has also been suggested. Speaking on Radio Continental, Arguindegui came out in favour of a direct amnesty law.

Troccoli doubted whether there would be any new developments on this front until the trial of the former junta members considered responsible for the "dirty war" excesses finished. These statements to reporters followed a ceremony in front of the police monument, which was held to pay tribute to the 228 police officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty since 1970.

According to reliable sources quoted yesterday in the daily LA RAZON, the government defines "responsible" officers as all above the rank of major in the Army or the equivalent in the Navy and Air Force.

Presidential Secretary German Lopez, who was quoted on Monday as having implicitly admitted the possibility of an amnesty law, yesterday said that he had never expressed such an idea "in either my words or even less my thinking." He said the phrase "new approach" referred to the change of mental attitude mentioned by President Raul Alfonsin in an earlier speech.

Finally, Vice-President Victor Martinez came out against any amnesty "because that would shut the door on any possibility of clearing up (the excesses)." However he told Radio El Mundo that he saw nothing against redefining the concept of due obedience.

CAPUTO COMMENTS ON RETURN FROM MADRID VISIT

PY032339 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2000 GMT 2 Jul 85

[Text] Buenos Aires, 2 Jul (NA) -- Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo today said that the fact that Spain has joined the EEC will not harm Latin American exports to that nation and that, on the contrary, "now we can count on a country in Europe that has strong links with the South, with Latin America." Speaking at Ezeiza International Airport upon returning from Madrid, Caputo also emphasized that the transfer of the Foreign Trade Secretariat to the Foreign Ministry has not come "as a result of an inner power struggle but of presidential instructions."

Caputo indicated that his Spanish counterpart, Fernando Moran, "shared several of his viewpoints" regarding bilateral relations, Spain becoming a member of the EEC, the Latin American foreign debt problem, and the Central American conflict. The Argentine foreign minister left for Spain on 28 June, but had to spend the night in Rio de Janeiro on doctors' advice because of extreme tiredness. Caputo arrived in Madrid on 30 June. He termed his visit to Spain "very profitable" and explained that it was "part of the system of consultations established with Spain whereby the foreign ministers must meet every year to update our agendas and go over our viewpoints concerning various new developments at the international level." He emphasized that he analyzed with Fernando Moran "the foreign debt problem, the Central American conflict, and the way in which Argentina's economy has reacted to the recent measures. We then went on to speak about Spain's integration into the EEC."

In response to a question, Caputo admitted that "Guglielminetti's extradition was mentioned during the talks, but it was not the main topic."

Asked whether he and Moran achieved "total agreement," Caputo said that "this would be difficult, but we do have similar viewpoints and agree on practically everything." Regarding EEC protectionism, Caputo stated that Spain has not undertaken "a formal commitment" to encourage the marketing of Argentine goods on European markets, adding, however, that "now we can count on a country in Europe that has strong links with the South, with Latin America." Caputo stressed that "the Spanish Government has repeatedly expressed a desire to be the bridge between the EEC and Latin America." The minister also denied that Argentina must change its international position due to the fact that Spain has become a member of the EEC.

Asked about the debate unleashed by the transfer of the Foreign Trade Secretariat to the Foreign Ministry, Caputo said that "this does not reflect a power struggle within the government but is the result of presidential instructions aimed at combining political and commercial expertise to handle foreign trade." He added that "it is indispensable to handle foreign trade in a more aggressive manner."

Returning to Spain's entry into the EEC, Caputo explained that "this will not influence our criticism of well-known EEC [protectionist] practices."

Caputo declined to answer whether Guglielminetti had sent telegrams to the Argentine Government offering to return voluntarily to Argentina or even to pay his own way, because "this sort of information is being handled by the Interior Ministry." Caputo, who traveled to Spain on 28 June, returned in the company of Raul Alconada Sempe, under secretary for Latin American affairs, and Jorge Romero, under secretary for international economic relations.

CUBAN VICE FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES FOR TALKS

PY052244 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1249 GMT 5 Jul 85

[Text] Buenos Aires, 5 Jul (DYN) -- Cuban Vice Foreign Minister Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada on his arrival here today stressed that Latin American nations must "coordinate" positions regarding the foreign debt so that "this problem can be resolved, but not at the expense of the development of our countries." Alarcon is here to meet with Argentine authorities. Alarcon, who spoke with the press at Ezeiza International Airport, indicated that during his stay in this city he will hold talks "with government and Foreign Ministry officials on problems of interest to all Latin American countries. Asked whether the exchange of trade will be discussed during these meetings, the Cuban official stated that "trade relations and relations in general between the two countries are progressing well and both parties wish to expand them." Moreover, he stated that "this is not the main motive of my visit, although, logically, we always discuss those topics."

Answering another question, he stressed "that of course" the question of the foreign debt will be discussed during the meetings "and in general the problems of the international economic crisis, especially all aspects pertaining to the Latin American situation." Alarcon maintained that at a world level there exists "a positive approach to regional desires that [words indistinct] integrationist efforts and to try to get Latin America to begin to follow the path that is being followed by other regions in the world, that of creating conglomerates that overflow the borders of nations. "After all, that," he added, "is the only way that small and developing countries can, in this modern world, advance their respective interests."

Asked whether it is his belief that the foreign debt of the Latin American countries can be paid, he replied that "in practice we believe that it can be, but, of course, we also believe that it is not essential. However, it is essential that Third World countries, and of course the Latin American countries, try to coordinate our positions in such a way that we can obtain from the creditor countries and institutions a deal and a position that will permit this problem to be resolved, but not at the expense of the development of our countries," he added.

When asked about relations between Cuba and the United States, he stated that "I would have to say that they are not going well," and he then stressed that "with the current policy of the Reagan administration I frankly cannot see any prospects of relations improving or normalizing." Asked whether he believes that U.S. forces could possibly invade Nicaragua, he replied that "we believe that this possibility is latent, but that it is a true danger, as has been revealed by recent U.S. decisions and the renewed efforts of the administration in giving material support to the counterrevolutionary groups."

Finally, Alarcon was asked about foreign press agency reports that indicate that Fidel Castro will possibly give up the post of prime minister. [as received] In this respect, he guaranteed that "Fidel Castro is in very good health and he is at the head of our party and of our revolution and I am sure that is how it will be for a long time."

INTERVIEW WITH FORMER PRESIDENT GARCIA MEZA

PY272033 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 27 Jun 85

["Text" of telephone interview with former President Luis Garcia Meza, who is now "somewhere" in Bolivia, during the 27 June "Open Microphone" program -- recorded]

[Excerpts] [Garcia Meza] I would like to inform the public that at no time did I lend myself to those maneuvers because I have always regarded myself as a Bolivian general and a good leader. This is why I am blaming this report on the ultraleft. I believe it is a plot against the Armed Forces and against me.

[Panamericana] Gen Garcia, you have probably read press reports charging you with having sold Che Guevara's diary. What can you tell us about this?

[Garcia Meza] Yes, you know me quite well and should know that this report cannot be true. At no time did I get involved in such a deal. I have never met the man who goes by the name of Eric Galatieri. I have never seen him or contacted him. The military high command should conduct the appropriate investigations since I did not rule alone: I had aides in each general staff department and those gentlemen are still there.

Furthermore, I have asked the interior minister to give me guarantees, which will allow me to openly and immediately return to Bolivia openly because I can no longer allow such allegations to go unchallenged. [Words indistinct] also has its price.

[Panamericana] Gen Garcia, in what country are you now staying?

[Garcia Meza] I am in Bolivia.

[Panamericana] Are you asking for guarantees from the government in order to produce evidence that will prove your innocence?

[Garcia Meza] I will produce all the necessary evidence since alleges have been raised against me during my absence, tarnishing both my name and rank. I was blamed for things I have not done. I would like to ask the members of the Democratic and Popular government: On what kind of foundations have we built our house?

[Panamericana] Gen Garcia Meza, the foreign minister has virtually confirmed that it was you who sold Che Guevara's diary. What can you say about this?

[Garcia Meza] You know that some people have also claimed that I am a drug trafficker. All those who charged me with being a drug trafficker, all those who have written whatever came to their minds about me will have to prove their allegations when I get there. They have to produce evidence to substantiate their charges. Because I deeply love my country I have remained silent thus far to avoid bringing dishonor upon it, even though others have discredited it in their efforts to discredit me. This does mean, however, that one has to take everything that is dished out. There is a limit and right now 100 noncommissioned officers and corporals of the Army and the police are awaiting me in Bolivia to help me do the things I have to do.

[Panamericana] What would those things be, Gen Garcia Meza?

[Garcia Meza] To put things in order. [Word indistinct] respect for the Armed Forces, which are always blamed for illegal actions.

[Panamericana] How would you bring order to this situation?

[Garcia Meza] I listen to you every day. You at Panamericana are always first to criticize the government's irresponsibility. We need true men in Bolivia, men who would work for their country.

[Panamericana] Do you mean, Gen Garcia Meza, that the democratic process could again be disrupted by the Armed Forces?

[Garcia Meza] I beg your pardon?

[Panamericana] I was asking you if putting things in order means disrupting the democratic process again.

[Garcia Meza] I have never opposed the democratic process. I have opposed those men in Congress who have violated the Constitution. I have never been antidemocratic.

[Panamericana] Gen Garcia Meza...

[Garcia Meza] [Words indistinct] that I am going to stage a coup. I do not need a coup.

[Panamericana] How would you use your support within the Armed Forces to put things back in order?

[Garcia Meza] By speaking to them, as you yourself want to do through your station; by guiding their ideas because the current situation is chaotic, everyone is pursuing his personal interests, no one is working for the country. No one is doing the things that should be done. No one is going to help us if we, Bolivians, refuse to work.

[Panamericana] Gen Garcia Meza, as former president of the Republic, what is your opinion on the upcoming 14 July election?

[Garcia Meza] Listen, the ultraleftists and other sectors involved in this plot against the Armed Forces to discredit military officers are seeking to disrupt the electoral process at all costs. This is why we have strikes and tremendous social unrest. I believe Bolivians are mature enough and that the democratic process should be continued.

Minister Confirms Conversation

PY281442 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 28 Jun 85

[Text] Former President Luis Garcia Meza has asked for guarantees from the government to return to the country. Interior Minister Gustavo Sanchez has confirmed that he talked with the former on the telephone, although he added that no one can confirm whether or not he is in the country. The interior minister made these remarks in answer to a question from Radio Panamericana regarding an exclusive interview this radio station held yesterday with Garcia Meza. In this regard, the interior minister stated:

In my capacity as interior minister, I personally answered a telephone call from Luis Garcia Meza. During my conversation with the former president, he complained about a letter by a Brazilian citizen named Eric Galatieri who revealed that he had bought the original diary of guerrilla leader Che Guevara directly from Garcia Meza.

According to the interior minister, the former president also asked for guarantees from the government so he can return to Bolivia to defend himself against the reported allegations.

We have told him, the interior minister stated, that there are guarantees for everyone in our country. And as you well know, there are also many people who committed serious errors and irregularities who are freely walking on our streets. The interior minister concluded by saying that Luis Garcia Meza can return to the country, and that the Interior Ministry has filed no charges against him. He added, however, that if charges are later filed, he will have to be submitted to the judicial branch.

Concluding, the interior minister said he could not tell where the phone call came from, because it could have been dialed directly from Arica [Peru], Mexico, or Europe, or from anywhere in the interior of the country.

COB TO HOST CONFERENCE ON FOREIGN DEBT

PY061915 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 6 Jul 85

[Text] Bolivian Labor Federation [COB] leader Walter Delgadillo has announced that a conference on the foreign debt will be held in La Paz next month. He added that another one on the same subject is to take place first in Havana, Cuba, from 15-17 July. The problem of the foreign debt is of great concern to workers, he stated. The COB leader said that the Bolivian foreign debt totals \$5 billion, out of which one-fourth is owed to the international private banks. Delgadillo said that he has prevented one-fourth of the debt from being paid for a year by means of worker mobilizations.

ENTEL WORKERS GO ON INDEFINITE STRIKE

PY041543 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 4 Jul 85

[Excerpt] The employees of the National Telecommunications Enterprise [ENTEL] will now go on an indefinite strike, beginning at 0900 today. This was announced by Fausto Ardaya, representative of the ENTEL employees:

[Begin recording] We had announced that we were going to hold staggered strikes from 1 July to date, to ask the government to answer the Bolivian Labor Federation petition in which we included three concrete points: First, we want the decrees regarding the Camiri, Villamontes projects, the expansion of the long distance phone station, and the acquisition of 1,000 teleprinters for the ENTEL computer center implemented. We have talked with the authorities and very little progress has been made toward a solution. Our second point refers to the use of ENTEL's own foreign exchange, which is deposited in the Central Bank, to buy this equipment. The third point refers to the ratification of agreements that have already been reached. These requests have been made repeatedly and workers have come to realize that the staggered strikes have not sensitized the government. Moreover, it seems that the government has not even taken notice. So, it has been decided, after a nationwide consultation, to go on a general strike beginning at 0900 on 4 July. [end recording]

NICARAGUA'S RAMIREZ ON CUBAN ADVISERS, U.S.

Says 700 Cubans in Country

PY040201 Paris AFP in Spanish 0059 GMT 6 Jul 85

[Text] Rio de Janeiro, 5 Jul (AFP) -- Nicaraguan Vice President Sergio Ramirez reported here today that at present there are 700 Cuban military advisers in Nicaragua and that there are no plans for their immediate withdrawal.

In a press conference, Ramirez said that his tour of Latin America is designed to obtain the support of democratic countries of the region for efforts that would result in the achievement of an effective peace both between Nicaragua and the United States and in the entire Central American region. Ramirez added that his country wants to resume talks with the U.S. Government as soon as possible but without yielding to President Reagan's efforts to make it surrender, namely the strategy of terror Reagan has adopted against Nicaragua, and the bill he managed to pass through Congress that authorizes him to intervene anywhere in the world without prior congressional approval.

Ramirez said that the economic problems Nicaragua is facing today do not stem from policies adopted by the Sandinist government but from the U.S. trade embargo.

Ramirez said his country is determined to accept any measure that would promote peace, as it already did last year when it gave its full support to measures proposed by the Contadora Group.

Ramirez said Nicaragua now advocates the establishment of demilitarized zones in border areas in order to prevent the attacks currently being launched against its territory from neighboring countries by mercenaries.

Ramirez admitted that there is press censorship in his country but noted that this is a temporary measure required by the state of war Nicaragua is now facing.

Tomorrow, 6 July, Ramirez will go to Buenos Aires, where he will seek to obtain President Alfonsin's support for the Nicaraguan peace efforts.

Proposes Inter-American Force

PY051512 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 5 Jul 85

[Text] After warmly praising Brazil, Nicaraguan Vice President Sergio Ramirez has said that he wants Brazil to take part in an inter-American force to be created to supervise the Nicaraguan-Costa Rican border.

MINISTRY DECLINES COMMENT ON NICARAGUAN PROPOSAL

PY061646 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1459 GMT 6 Jul 85

[Text] Brasilia, 6 Jul (EFE) -- O GLOBO today reported that the Brazilian Foreign Ministry has refused to comment on the possibility of supervising, along with the armed forces of other Latin American countries, the border between Nicaragua and Costa Rica, as suggested by the Managua government.

The Rio de Janeiro morning paper added: This matter was cautiously mentioned to Brazilian President Jose Sarney by Nicaraguan Vice President Sergio Ramirez, who said that his country intends to create a neutral border zone.

The proposal, which might be made by the Contadora Group -- which defends a negotiated peace in Central America -- has not been made even informally to the Brazilian Government, according to sources at Itamaraty Palace, that is, the Foreign Ministry.

According to O GLOBO, Sergio Ramirez said that during their meeting President Sarney considered with sympathy the creation of such a neutral zone along the border between Costa Rica and Nicaragua in an attempt to maintain peace in the region. Sarney told Vice President Ramirez and Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Jose Hugo Tinoco that Brazil will support the Contadora Group, made up of Colombia, Mexico, Venezuela, and Panama, in the most effective way.

In turn, the Nicaraguans hope the actions of these countries will be more dynamic and that they will deal with the most urgent problems, such as the creation of the neutral zone.

Ramirez stated in Rio de Janeiro that he discussed with President Jose Sarney the efforts that have been made by Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, and other South American countries to achieve peace in Central America.

SARNEY REPEALS DECREE; BLASTS MINISTER AS INCOMPETENT

PY051500 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 4 Jul 85 p 7

[Excerpt] Brasilia -- President Jose Sarney on 3 July charged that the decree declaring the Londrina District in Parana State a priority area for land reform had been incorrectly written because of the incompetence of Nelson Ribeiro, the minister of land reform and agrarian development. Sarney repealed the decree and summoned the minister to the Planalto Palace for a briefing.

Decree No 91,390, which Sarney signed on 2 July, deals with an area of only 1,651 hectares in Apucarantina, in the Londrina District. But the first article of the decree sets forth that the entire district is a priority area for land reform, without explaining that the decree only refers to a small area, where there is a conflict with the Apinaje Indians.

Planalto Palace Press Secretary Fernando Cesar Mesquita has justified the fact that the president signed a decree with the wrong text on the grounds that "when the president signs a decree, and he signs several decrees every day, he takes it for granted that they have been drafted by competent people whom he trusts."

SARNEY GETS PHYSICAL, ORDERED TO EXERCISE

PY070029 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 6 Jul 85

[Excerpts] There were some rumors yesterday afternoon in Brasilia that President Jose Sarney's health was not good and that he was suffering from hypertension. However, the rumors were unfounded because the president underwent serious medical examinations with quite favorable results. President Jose Sarney will have to exercise daily and watch his diet. During the first month, he must walk 1 km in 10 or 12 minutes and then intensify the exercise in the following months. He will also have to start eating less fattening foods and drink less alcohol. These recommendations were made by the Planalto Palace medical team after the president underwent a 3-hour medical checkup yesterday. President Sarney underwent several medical tests in the Planalto medical unit. The results of the tests are considered to be normal. His blood pressure is 12/8 without any signs of hypertension. This Saturday the president will spend 12 hours connected to a device that will register his heartbeat. He will undergo this exam every 6 months. Despite the normal results of the examinations, Colonel Mecias Dias de Araujo, chief of the Planalto medical team, said that the president has to exercise to prevent stress.

DEL VALLE ON EASTER ISLAND, HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT

PY050244 Santiago Radio Chilena in Spanish 2330 GMT 4 Jul 85

[Report by Jose Francisco Contreras]

[Text] A possible agreement with the United States for the use of Mataveri Airport would have to be in the form of a treaty, and therefore it will have to be approved by the government junta. This was stated today by Foreign Minister Jaime del Valle. Del Valle also stressed that as long as the OAS International Human Rights Commission does not correct its erroneous procedures, Chile will not accept the respective report.

The foreign minister stated today that an agreement with the United States for the use of Mataveri Airport for space shuttle emergency landings will have to be in the form of a treaty. This means that the agreement between the parties will have to be approved by the government junta. Del Valle met twice today with U.S. Ambassador Theberge, once during the morning and then during the afternoon. The afternoon meeting concluded after 1600. The advisory commissions of the two countries continued the negotiations following the afternoon meeting between the minister and the ambassador. The minister also stated that the discussions will continue all day tomorrow, 5 July, and that at the end of the meetings definite conclusions may have been reached. If so, they will be submitted to the president next week. Del Valle also said that the head of state will inform the public of the details of the agreement that is to be reached with the United States on the Easter Island airport.

The foreign minister was asked about a report that the OAS International Human Rights Commission has just issued on the human rights situation in Chile. This report must be submitted to the country. It will then be submitted to the organization's General Assembly. Del Valle stated that the Chilean Government has formulated observations about the procedure that was used in drafting the report, which, he said, has very serious errors, adding that Chile has informed the OAS International Human Rights Commission that if these very serious errors in procedure are not corrected Chile will not officially accept the report.

Announces Draft Treaty

PY061704 Santiago Radio Cooperativa in Spanish 1700 GMT 5 Jul 85

[Text] The Chilean Government will officially give the U.S. Government the draft of the final agreement for the use by NASA of the Easter Island airport. This was announced by Foreign Minister Jaime del Valle, who said that progress has been made regarding the agreement.

[Begin recording] We have agreed that at 1700 on Monday, 8 July, Chile will hand over a draft treaty to the U.S. Embassy. The draft will contain practically all the clauses we have discussed during all these hours of negotiation. In principle, there is agreement on all but a few of the main points, and on these there will have to be consultations at the highest level on both sides. [end recording]

When asked whether some conditions have been eliminated from this agreement, Minister Del Valle stated:

[Begin recording] We have not eliminated any of the conditions we specifically brought up for discussion in the talks with the United States. What has occurred is that there were reports in the media before the talks opened that may cause confusion. Specifically, however, we have been discussing the extension of the Easter Island airport. [end recording]

Foreign Minister Del Valle did not, however, give an affirmative answer when he was asked directly if the United States would be allowed to use Mataverí Airport, although he said that the Chilean Government is satisfied with the agreement. He gave the following answer to the question:

[Begin recording] I cannot answer, because I do not know if they will accept the agreement in the form in which we will present it on Monday, because there are many clauses and many conditions, so we must look at the whole picture. Concretely, we will continue to discuss each of the clauses, and they will have to consult their government on some points. [end recording]

When asked if there will be a deadline for the U.S. Government to reply to the final proposal of the Chilean Government, Foreign Minister Del Valle said that the negotiations will be finished very soon.

[Begin recording] I believe, because of the manner of proceedings we have agreed upon, that we might say that the negotiations will be concluded by the end of next week. Some questions are very complex, so it is not possible to do what we all wanted, which was to hand over the Chilean draft of the treaty today. [end recording]

In turn, Ambassador James Theberge said the two parties are nearing a final draft, which the NASA representative will take to the United States for study.

[Begin recording] [Theberge] In the past few days we have been trying to arrive at an agreement on each point of the basic agreement. We have made progress, of course, on important points of the agreement.

[Question indistinct]

[Theberge] We have talked only about the airport. [end recording]

When asked if the draft agreement coincides with the original NASA proposal, Ambassador Theberge said:

[Begin recording] There are modifications. Our original proposal has been very much modified in the course of our talks, in a very substantial way. I cannot give any details. [end recording]

The U.S. ambassador stressed that all the talks have dealt exclusively with the Easter Island airport.

ROSENDE CONVEYS PINOCHET INTEREST IN MURDER CASE

PY040324 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 3 Jul 85

[Excerpts] Justice Minister Hugo Rosende has informed the Supreme Court of the interest expressed by the president of the Republic in the investigations of the triple murder case. The justice minister met with all members of the Supreme Court, headed by Rafael Retamal. At the end of the meeting, which lasted approximately 40 minutes, the justice minister reported on the objective of his visit to the court.

[Begin recording] I have come to visit the Supreme Court on the special orders of the president of the Republic, who is extremely interested in the investigations ordered by the relatives of the three persons who were kidnapped and later beheaded. This is the case being handled by Judge Canova. [end recording]

Judge Canova is investigating the kidnapping and murder of Manuel Guerrero, Manuel Parada, and Santiago Nattino. The justice minister added that he asked the judges to clear the case as soon as possible. He also reiterated President Pinochet's clear position that no exceptions whatsoever were to be made. Whoever is found guilty will be punished.

[Begin recording] This is a case pertaining exclusively to the courts. The government maintains an absolutely neutral position. Whatever the court decides will be carried out. [end recording]

The justice minister concluded by reiterating the president's interest in a quick solution to the case. He added that his presence at the courts shows the respect the president of the Republic has for the Supreme Court.

CHURCHES, POLICE HEADQUARTERS TARGETS OF BOMBS

PY051545 Paris AFP in Spanish 1334 GMT 5 Jul 85

[Text] Santiago, 5 Jul (AFP) -- Police sources today reported that unidentified individuals set off bombs in Santiago and four provincial cities in Chile on 4 and 5 July.

A bomb was planted under a car parked on a street in Las Condes District in Santiago. Another bomb shattered the windows of the headquarters of the Chilean-North American Culture Institute in Rancagua.

The other four explosions took place at the Mormon churches in Lota and Coronel; in front of a Carabineros precinct in Concepcion; and near the offices of the American National Cash Register Company, also in Concepcion. In the last attack, a pedestrian who was knocked down by the shock wave was slightly injured, the authorities said.

No organization has claimed responsibility for the attacks, which are similar to dozens of actions claimed in the past by the outlawed Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front and the Movement of the Revolutionary Left, which advocate armed struggle against President Augusto Pinochet's military regime.

POLICE DETAIN DEMONSTRATORS, CORRESPONDENT

PY060459 Paris AFP in Spanish 2008 GMT 5 Jul 85

[Text] Santiago, 5 Jul (AFP) -- Six demonstrators and a foreign correspondent were detained today in downtown Santiago while demanding that the Chilean military government explain the violent circumstances in which several of their relatives died.

Some 30 persons gathered today near the Carabineros headquarters where they displayed a sign saying that President Augusto Pinochet and Carabineros General Cesar Mendoza must provide answers, apparently referring to a wave of political crimes perpetrated in Chile during the past few months. AFP has confirmed that the police broke up the gathering, detained 6 demonstrators and Luis Salinas, correspondent for a British television network. It has been recalled in Santiago that on 4 March three communist militants were kidnapped and murdered by an unidentified group.

Today, the demonstrators demanded that the military government relinquish the murderers of six other students and young persons who died in a police action against the subversive groups.

GENERAL ON INAUGURATION SECURITY, MIRAGE JETS

PY032108 Lima Radioprogramas del Peru in Spanish 0000 GMT 3 July 85

[Text] General Cesar Enrico Praelli, president of the Armed Forces Joint Command, today said that the Armed Forces and police have the responsibility to protect the foreign dignitaries who come to Peru to attend the presidential inauguration. He also referred to the purchase of Mirage jets from France and the declarations allegedly made by the chief of the Second Military Region, Sinensio Jarama.

[Begin recording] [Praelli] The declarations attributed to General Jarama have been clarified through a communique released by the Armed Forces Joint Command. The communique explained that neither the Armed Forces, General Jarama, nor any other high-ranking ~~military commander~~ said that press censorship was to be imposed or that military courts were going to be created or that the country should be placed in a state of emergency for 6 months. The alleged declarations were completely false.

[Reporter] Can you confirm that the Mirage jets will be purchased? Will the fact that the country is experiencing an economic crisis obstruct the purchase?

[Praelli] We officially -- I am talking as Air Force commander -- are not aware that the government has taken any action to cancel the contract. The cancellation of the contract would mean that the French Government would file charges against the Peruvian Government demanding payment, which I believe will be around \$300-\$350 million. We would have to pay for breaking the contract. I believe this would not be advantageous. The main point is that the government has not at any time rejected the purchase of the aircraft. All the paperwork is being handled normally. As I have mentioned before, Peruvian Air Force personnel are being trained in France by the French Air Force to operate the aircraft if we get them.

[Reporter] Will the Armed Forces guarantee the transfer of power?

[Praelli] The word guarantee is a difficult term. We are going to cooperate with the police security forces as much as possible so that the transfer of power can be carried out normally.

[Reporter] What security measures are going to be taken?

[Praelli] Security will be provided for the foreign dignitaries and officials who come for the presidential inauguration from the time they arrive until the time they leave the country. All kinds of security will be provided to protect them and the place where they will be staying, which I believe is the Sheraton Hotel. They will have continuous security to prevent any abnormal situation. [end recording]

4,000 ARRESTED IN PRE-INAUGURATION SWEEP

PY051815 Paris AFP in Spanish 0035 GMT 5 Jul 85

[Text] Lima, 4 Jul (AFP) -- The state news agency today reported that 4,000 persons suspected of having links with terrorists were detained by the police in the past few days. This operation was conducted in the framework of preventive measures against possible attacks that may take place during the presidential inauguration on 28 July.

The Civil Guard has also intensified an operation to find car thieves who use stolen cars in terrorist attacks, kidnappings, and robberies. It was reported that 250 persons were arrested today in this operation.

In turn, some terrorists today dynamited a police station in a Lima shantytown, causing damage but no casualties. In an act of daring boldness, other terrorists painted a hammer-and-sickle sign and slogans in favor of armed struggle on the bathroom wall of a small Investigative Police (detective corps) station.

NAVAL COMMAND REITERATES SUPPORT FOR GARCIA

PY022145 Lima Radioprogramas del Peru in Spanish 0100 GMT 2 Jul 85

[Text] President-elect Alan Garcia today held his first meeting with the Peruvian Naval Command on board the frigate Montero. The meeting was attended by Navy Minister Vice Admiral Jorge Dubois Gervais; Navy Commander Vice Admiral Geronimo Cafferatta Marazzi; Rear Admiral Eduardo Barragan, the director of the Naval School; Vice President-elect Luis Alva Castro; Deputy Luis Negreiros; and other officials.

[Begin recording] Alan Garcia is now leaving after meeting with members of the Peruvian Naval Command. What issues did you discuss with Alan Garcia?

[Unidentified Navy officer] The meeting with Alan Garcia was aimed at briefing him on the current situation in the Navy and on naval projects. It was the same type of briefing held with other sectors.

[Question indistinct]

[Navy officer] [Words indistinct] we are repairing the Callao port, building a new pier. The new missile frigate (Burgetti) is also being built.

[Reporter] Has the Navy reiterated its support for the new government?

[Navy officer] Definitely, the new government has received support [words indistinct] a long time ago, and the Armed Forces are keeping their word [words indistinct]. [end recording]

GARCIA ANNOUNCES TWO CABINET APPOINTMENTS

WA080900 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 28 Jun 85 p A 1

[Excerpt] President-elect Alan Garcia announced yesterday that Wilfredo Huayta will be the second member of his ministerial cabinet. He did not specify which post he will hold, but it is assumed that it will be in the Energy and Mines Ministry. The other minister recently confirmed is David Tejada de Rivero, who will become minister of health on 28 July.

LEGISLATIVE, MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS HELD 7 JULY

PA071500 Paris AFP in Spanish 1430 GMT 7 Jul 85

[Text] Mexico, 7 Jul (AFP) -- The electoral polls and ballot receiving boards opened in Mexico at 0800 today (1400 GMT) to elect legislative and municipal authorities and seven governors in federal states. A total of more than 34 million citizens -- half of whom are under 30 -- make up the electorate for these elections, which will affect all 400 seats of the Chamber of Deputies.

Approximately 90,000 Army troops are ensuring the safe holding of these elections, in which the principal parties of the country, the official Institutional Revolutionary Party, the rightist National Action Party, and the leftist Unified Socialist Party of Mexico, are participating. The polls are scheduled to close at 1800 (0000 GMT), except in cases where voter turnout requires extended hours.

No Incidents in Piedras Negras

FL081125 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1620 GMT 7 Jul 85

[Text] Piedras Negras, Mexico, 7 Jul (NOTIMEX) -- The electoral process was carried out in this city of the Mexican State of Coahuila in an orderly fashion and without incidents, ending at 1900 (0100 GMT). According to the reports from the 58 voting places, 80 percent of the voters, some 44,000 citizens, cast their ballots.

The electoral process was carried out peacefully with respect for the nine participating political parties and in accordance with the state electoral law. After the voting places closed, the political parties' representatives making up the Municipal Electoral Commission began counting the votes. Preliminary reports will be made known by the State Electoral Commission today or tomorrow.

Violent Rioting in Sonora

PA081233 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0809 GMT 8 Jul 85

[Text] Mexico City, 8 Jul (EFE) -- Some 22 persons were injured last night in Obregon City (Sonora) during a clash between militants of 2 political parties at the end of election day, various sources have informed EFE. Jose Antonio Gandara, leader of the rightist National Action Party PAN, said that from the beginning of the polling, which began on Sunday, groups of persons violated the electoral laws, culminating in an outbreak of violence. He said that late yesterday many militants of PAN, the principal opposition force in Mexico, "were attacked by hoodlums" and persons of a "shock group called Black Wind (Viento Negro)."

Gandara said that at least 14 PAN militants were injured during the disturbances, which began when groups of unidentified persons stole ballot boxes and exchanged them for others with votes for the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), which currently controls the government.

The Red Cross stated that it treated eight injured persons, four civilians and four members of the Municipal Police and the Army.

It noted that two of the injured "sustained numerous considerable injuries." The Red Cross spokesman indicated that these persons were injured during clashes between members of the PAN and PRI.

Armando Redilla, chief of the Judicial Police of the state of Sonora, told EFE that he was aware of three slightly injured due to blows and stones thrown, noting that the disturbances "did not escalate and that everything was under control." The Judicial Police report does not agree with that of the Red Cross or the PAN leader who affirmed that the disturbances persisted in several parts of Obregon City.

Obregon City, where the clashes occurred after the elections were held for governor, federal and provincial deputies, and mayors, is one of the most important communities of Sonora State.

In this state in northwestern Mexico, the most violent incidents occurred during election day yesterday. In San Luis Rio Colorado the authorities jailed some 70 PAN militants for destroying ballot boxes, which led to a demonstration resulting in the burning of 7 vehicles and considerable damage to several buildings.

ORTIZ MENA ON STABILIZATION OF FOREIGN DEBT

FL032029 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2355 GMT 2 Jul 85

[Excerpts] Mexico City, 2 Jul (NOTIMEX) -- Mexico has been able to stabilize its foreign debt despite receiving additional loans which are essential for its development, Antonio Ortiz Mena, Inter-American Development Bank [IDB] president has said. Mexico's foreign debt is practically stabilized, hence, it allows the country to fulfill its obligations with creditor countries, Ortiz said at a press conference after participating at the Ninth World Forestry Congress being held in Mexico City.

He added that Mexico's efforts to overcome 1982's economic crisis have not been able to reduce inflation, its worst enemy, but it was able to enter a gradual period of decline.

PEMEX's crude oil reserves have not decreased. The consumption of 2 and 1/2 years can be supplied with newly discovered reserves, the IDB president indicated.

Finally, he said the comments he heard in Europe as he returned from Paris, Rome, and Madrid during the Mexican president's visit indicated that closer ties with the European Community should be a major factor for Mexico's development.

GOVERNMENT, CONATO AGREE TO BEGIN NATIONAL DIALOGUE

PA050252 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 3 Jul 85 pp 1, 6

[Text] After a consultation that lasted several hours -- it was initiated at midnight last night and ended at 0600 this morning -- the national government and the National Council of Organized Workers [Conato] representatives signed an accord to initiate a national dialogue. This is the text of the accord:

Considering that the country's economic problems require prompt and adequate solutions, aware that such solutions must be the result of the contributions of the various sectors so that through responsible participation they can help to clearly set forth the economic and social objectives of the nation and the basis of a national development plan to reach these goals for the benefit of all Panamanians, and convinced that a sincere dialogue held in good faith constitutes the best instrument to overcome differences, reconcile opinions, and solve problems, the representatives of the executive branch and those of Conato, assisted by members of the legislative assembly, agree:

1. To initiate a national dialogue to discuss the basis of the national development plan that will allow all sectors to contribute their efforts to solving Panamanians' problems.

2. To form a national commission for the development plan. This commission will consider the studies that various groups and agencies have carried out based on the country's reality.

The national commission will be formed by organizations that represent the businessmen, agricultural and livestock, and labor (Conato) sectors, as well as the general public on an equal representation basis.

3. To recommend that the commission establish a general framework for an analysis of the economic and financial situation.

4. To suggest the installation of working subcommissions that will work on the areas that result from the national commission's orientation or general framework.

5. To suggest that the national commission and subcommissions' decisions be taken through a consensus, as determined by the national commission.

6. To consult the various political, civic, and social organizations, as well as professionals and persons with experience whose contributions will significantly benefit the final result of the national commission's work.

7. We acknowledge as positive the president's pledge not to convoke special sessions of the Legislative Assembly to impose amendments on the labor code. [sentence as published]

8. To urge our fellow citizens to cooperate in the efforts to obtain the best possible results and cope with the problems with determination and unity in order to maintain social peace and our country's democratic institutions.

It is agreed that the strike ends and the workers return to their jobs at 1000 on 3 July 1985.

[Signed] Martin Gonzalez B., Conato coordinator; Jorge Federico Lea, labor and social welfare minister; legislator Jose Morris Quintero, chairman of the working commission

First Meeting Suspended

PA062313 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1200 GMT 6 Jul 85

[By Agustin de Gracia]

[Excerpts] Panama City, 6 Jul (AFAN-EFE) -- The first work meeting of the national dialogue called by the Panamanian Government to find joint solutions to the economic crisis was suspended today when some union leaders refused to participate in the dialogue.

"If it is going to be a national dialogue, everyone must participate, Jose Fierro, minister of the presidency, told ACAN-EFE a few minutes after the first work meeting between the government, businessmen, union leaders and farmers failed.

Representatives of the National Council of Organized Workers (Conato), which held a nationwide strike this week, refused to participate in the discussion because of the presence of two labor leaders of whom they did not approve.

Conato was scheduled to submit its national development plan at today's meeting, said Labor Minister Jorge Federico Lee. Jose Fierro said that the government will give Conato time to solve its internal differences, a matter in which the government will not intervene.

FOREIGN MINISTER ON RENEWED CONTADORA EFFORTS

PA050058 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2315 GMT 4 Jul 85

[Text] This afternoon Foreign Minister Jorge Abadia Arias gave the Foreign Relations and Panama Canal Commissions of the Legislative Assembly the final report containing suggestions for the tripartite committee that prepared the guidelines to begin the feasibility studies for an alternative to the canal. Abadia also announced to local and foreign journalists the need to convoke an urgent meeting of the Contadora Group member countries next week to reactivate the mediation role of Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela, and Panama in the Central American conflict.

[Begin Recording] We are promoting... [rephrases] My country, Panama, is promoting a meeting of the four Contadora Group foreign ministers possibly at the Contadora Group's place of origin, Contadora Island. We would thus return to our genesis and adopt decisions at the foreign minister level, properly authorized by the four countries' presidents, seeking the mechanism to reactivate the Contadora Group and its mediation, which undoubtedly continues to be the only alternative for peace in Central America. The situation on the isthmus is still very critical, even grave; nevertheless, we feel optimistic and that it is possible to attain solutions. We talked with the Colombian foreign minister this morning; the meeting will possibly be held during the second week of July. [end recording]

BELIZEPRIME MINISTER ESQUIVEL TO VISIT LONDON FOR TALKS

FLO31710 Bridgetown CANA in English 1640 GMT 3 Jul 85

[Text] London, July 3, CANA -- The prime minister of Belize, Manuel Esquivel, will pay an official visit to Britain at the end of this month, the government announced today. During the week-long visit, his first to Britain as prime minister, the leader of the former British colony will have talks with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and other ministers.

Britain maintains a 1,700-strong garrison in Belize to deter its Central American neighbour, Guatemala, from invading. Guatemala has a century-old claim to Belize, which has been seeking guarantees that the garrison will remain on its soil.

FORMATION OF RIGHT-WING PARTY ANNOUNCED

PA051919 Paris AFP in Spanish 2353 GMT 4 Jul 85

[Text] Belize, 4 Jul (AFP) -- Louis Sylvestre, former Belizean energy and communications minister, has announced the formation of a new rightist party. The new organization, which will be called Popular Party of Belize [Partida Popular de Belize] (PPB), has brought together former members and activists of Belize's two traditional parties -- the (ruling) United Democratic Party and the People's United Party (PUP), which is currently the opposition and is led by former Prime Minister George Price.

Sylvestre, with Frederick Hunter as deputy, is a former member of Price's PUP, which was the dominant force in Belize's political scene for 20 years. However, Sylvestre drifted away from it during the past few years. The former minister, who is well known for his rightist ideas, maintains excellent contacts with the Republican Party of the United States. Local analysts give his movement little chance of success, however.

COSTA RICAMONGE AGREES TO TALKS WITH NICARAGUAN IN PANAMA

PA051843 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1816 GMT 5 Jul 85

[Text] San Jose, 5 Jul (ACAN-EFE) -- President Luis Alberto Monge agreed today to begin the search for "effective and lasting" solutions to the border tensions with Nicaragua just as Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega had proposed. Monge has proposed Panama as the site for these talks. Nevertheless, he warned that total acceptance of the Sandinist initiative will be effective "as long as it does not mean or cause the undermining of the negotiations and proposals being carried out with the mediation of the Contadora Group for the general solution of the Central American crisis."

Ortega proposed to Monge 1 week ago that talks be held with the cooperation of France and the Contadora Group member countries (Mexico, Colombia, Panama, and Venezuela) in the territory of any of those countries in order to decide formulas and adequate mechanism to overcome the incidents on the common border.

Regarding the date of the first meeting, the Costa Rican president said that it will be after the OAS Permanent Council issues an opinion on the report of the commission that investigated the border incidents at the end of May. According to the Costa Rican Government, on 31 May, a Costa Rican Civil Guard patrol was ambushed by Sandinist troops in the border area of Las Crucitas, killing two guardsmen and wounding nine others.

Government House spokesmen told ACAN-EFE that Monge sent a request today to Panamanian President Nicolas Ardito Barletta for permission to hold the negotiations with Nicaragua in Panamanian territory if the Sandinist government agrees to this condition.

MONGE REPLIES TO ORTEGA'S DEMILITARIZATION PLAN

PA061544 San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 28 Jun 85 p 2

[Letter from President Luis Alberto Monge to Nicaraguan President Commander Daniel Ortega, dated 27 June]

[Text] I acknowledge receipt of a note sent to me yesterday in which you convey to the Costa Rican Government a proposal by the illustrious Nicaraguan Government to create a demilitarized zone on both sides of our common border. In reply to your proposal, I must remind you that Costa Rica does not need to demilitarize part of its territory because, as the illustrious Nicaraguan Government already knows, Costa Rica decided 36 years ago to outlaw the army as a permanent institution and placed its security in the hands of mechanisms of the inter-American system.

Since we do not maintain an army and do not wish to have one, and since we have unilaterally put down our weapons and practice a sincere pacifist policy, we believe that the Nicaraguan Government's interest is more than satisfied. You ask us to establish a demilitarized area, but we have already demilitarized our entire national territory, from the San Juan River to the Sixaola River.

As for your statement that Costa Rican territory is being used by groups opposing the Nicaraguan Government to carry out destabilization operations against it, I reiterate that that statement lacks any real credence. Whenever such actions have been discovered, the Costa Rican Government has vigorously proceeded to break them up, in keeping with principles specified in its proclamation of active, perpetual, and unarmed neutrality issued on 17 November 1983. That proclamation was supported and acknowledged by the illustrious Nicaraguan Government as our country's best contribution to the pacification of Central America. I must also point out that such actions have always been carried out on Nicaraguan territory under insurgent control. That activity reflects internal problems in Nicaragua that must be solved by Nicaraguans themselves.

Nevertheless, as evidence of our goodwill and to show that Costa Rican neutrality is real, effective, and not mere rhetoric, the Costa Rican Government reiterates its willingness to accept OAS and Contadora Group supervision through a permanent commission created with this objective in mind. Its jurisdiction would not be limited to the border area but would extend to the entire territory of the two states.

I hope that on this occasion the Nicaraguan Government will assume an attitude in keeping with the principles it claims to defend and will accept the Costa Rican Government proposal that I hereby present on its behalf.

[Signed] Luis Alberto Monge, president of Costa Rica

ARMS REPORTEDLY EN ROUTE TO NICARAGUA SEIZED

PA060209 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2300 GMT 4 Jul 85

[Text] San Jose, 4 Jul (DPA) -- This afternoon Costa Rican authorities identified the shipment found aboard the Danish registered vessel Bente Folmer, as being manufactured in the FRG. Costa Rican judicial authorities stated that the 200 submachine guns were "undoubtedly manufactured in the FRG," but that they did not know how the weapons were transferred to the port of Bilbao, Spain. The authorities added that after today's questioning of Andeer Alan, the Danish captain of the vessel, and five crewmen, the vessel may continue its journey.

The vessel Bente Folmer stopped at the port of Caldera, Costa Rica, to unload products used to make fertilizer. The authorities stated that they detected the cases with a shipment destined for the port of Corinto, Nicaragua, and that these weapons were sent to Nicaragua by the Basque Spanish organization, the Basque Homeland and Liberty [ETA].

In compliance with Costa Rican laws, the shipment will remain in the hands of the state.

EL SALVADORVICE PRESIDENT ON BORDER PROBLEM WITH HONDURAS

PA062240 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1800 GMT 5 Jul 85

[Report on an interview with Vice President and Foreign Minister Rodolfo Castillo Claramount, by unidentified reporter at the Foreign Ministry; date not given -- live or recorded]

[Excerpts] [Castillo] We made several changes in our foreign service. I will ask you not to question me about this now, because I cannot reveal any name or country at this time.

[Reporter] Mr Minister: What is your opinion about the situation of displaced people near the Honduran border?

[Castillo] Yes, there have been incorrect reports about this stating that the Honduran Army carried out several incursions in towns north of Morazan, harassing Salvadoran citizens, burning down some ranches, beating up some people, destroying some finished products such as (?molasses cakes), and destroying some crops. The Salvadoran Armed Forces had nothing to do with that. These reports are absolutely false. I categorically reject reports that the Salvadoran Armed Forces have used violence against the peasants. It is not true that the Armed Forces told the peasants they will be expelled from there because that territory will be given to Honduras.

We have already drafted the corresponding protest notes and sent them to the Honduran Foreign Secretariat. Of course, we are dealing with a very serious problem. This is not new; it dates back a long time. These displaced individuals, like many others, are experiencing a very difficult situation. To prevent these kind of problems, we must achieve the final delimitation of our border; we are making efforts with that objective in mind.

There is no doubt that rebels are the last to wish a final delimitation of the border area, because areas with unmarked borders serve as sanctuaries for them.

We could resort to the International Court of the Hague as specified in the Treaty of Lima. I would like to tell the Salvadoran people that our Foreign Ministry has been making adequate preparations and will continue to do so [words indistinct]. In this sense, actions are important, not boasts or publicity stunts. We might eventually be involved in a trial in a very serious court where evidence is what counts. We are diligently working on this.

However, we hope to avoid resorting to the Hague. Honduras shares this viewpoint, because this could involve a very lengthy process lasting 5, 10, 15, or 30 years. This kind of trial tends to last a long time and be very costly, because international juridical experts must be hired. It would entail a great (?expense to both governments).

Finally, there is a political element that we have clearly want to avoid: an image of confrontation with Honduras at this trying juncture in Central America. We would not like to introduce a new confrontation, controversy, or problem that would widen the gap between the two countries, even though it involves a legal matter. However, for the sake of our image, we would like to avoid this and Honduras agrees with us.

ARMY REPORTS REBEL CASUALTIES IN CLASHES

PA062017 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 5 Jul 85 pp 2, 29

[Text] The Armed Forces Press Committee [Coprefa] has reported that fierce clashes resulting in numerous dead extremists took place in El Coyolito canton, San Vicente. According to Coprefa, the bloody action took place 2 days ago in the evening when Tehuacan Battalion troops of the 5th Infantry Brigade headquartered in San Vicente discovered an extremist column moving in the vicinity of El Coyolito canton. A lengthy battle ensued. Afterward, numerous subversives' bodies were left scattered across the battlefield. Due to darkness the number of dead and wounded could not be determined. For the same reason, it was not possible to seize weapons or other war materiel.

Coprefa reported that the Air Force's airborne battalion clashed with terrorist groups in that same paracentral department, specifically in the vicinity of Santa Rosita village, Palo Grande, Santa Clara jurisdiction. One soldier was killed and two others wounded. It is not known whether the subversive groups sustained any casualties.

The Coprefa spokesman reported that the Major Asmitia Antiterrorist Battalion of the 4th Infantry Brigade headquartered in Chalatenango engaged FMLN-FDR leftists in the vicinity of El Salitre canton, Tejutla jurisdiction. Two rebels were killed, and two M-16 rifles and much ammunition and loaders were seized.

The spokesman added that in their effort to destroy the people's property FDR-FMLN subversives dynamited a pylon at km 20 on the Apopa-Quetzaltepeque Highway, specifically by the turnoff leading to Nejapa, leaving the area without electricity.

Finally, the spokesman said that the Jucuaran Battalion of the 6th Infantry Brigade headquartered in Usulután reported that a subversive with the pseudonym "Miguel" turned himself in to a patrol of that unit in the vicinity of Santa Maria Bridge, Jucuapa jurisdiction.

ARMY INFLECTS GUERRILLA CASUALTIES IN TECOLUCA

PA061631 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 6 Jul 85

[Bulletin issued by the Armed Forces Press Committee, Coprefa; no date or place given]

[Text] Yesterday troops of the Engineers Military Detachment headquartered in Zacatecoluca attacked a terrorist column in the vicinity of the La Zorra Path, Tecoluca jurisdiction. As a result, (712) extremists were killed and several wounded. In addition, an M-16 rifle and ammunition for it were seized.

Meanwhile, this morning FDR-FMLN terrorists attacked San Miguel de Mercedes. As a result, a Civil Defense volunteer was wounded, and three others are missing. The terrorists partially destroyed the municipal and National Administration for Telecommunications [ANTEL] offices. They later stole a bus belonging to local residents. Casualties among the extremist ranks are unknown.

Meanwhile, extremist Jose Mario Serrano Calderon of the Farabundo Marti Peoples Liberation Forces [FPL] turned himself in to Detachment No 1, headquartered in Chalatenango. Also, former terrorist Julio Alberto Lizano Moran turned himself over to Arce Battalion troops in (Valle San Andres de la Vega), (Nuevo Leon) jurisdiction, San Juan, San Miguel Department.

D'AUBUISSON COMMENTS ON ALLEGED U.S. CAMPAIGN

PA061610 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1950 GMT 3 Jul 85

[Telephone interview with Major Roberto D'Aubuisson, congressional leader of the Nationalist Republican Alliance [ARENA] by unidentified reporter -- live]

[Excerpts] [Reporter] First of all, Maj D'Aubuisson, we would like to ask you about an alleged campaign planned in the United States against your party and you. It has been said that liberal groups of leftist tendencies might also initiate this in the next few hours.

[D'Aubuisson] Thank you. We would like to stress that we have just met with Mr Hamilton, the current charge d'affaires at the U.S. Embassy, who is virtually acting as the U.S. ambassador, in order to inform him that yesterday I learned through very good friends in Washington that either today or possibly tomorrow a report will be published in the United States stating that people close to me are responsible for the Zona Rosa massacre. These are ill-intentioned reports that seek to involve us in such actions to create confusion. We believe that this is really too much and that this is a very delicate matter. Our source in Washington is very reliable, and therefore we considered it prudent to inform Hamilton about it. He told me that he is aware of the situation, of the statements made by the Revolutionary Party of Central American Workers [PRTC] and the FMLN, and in sum he said that such a report would be in very poor taste.

We have been analyzing this and have found some logical reasons behind this campaign: first because the U.S. media has given broad publicity to this horrible crime perpetrated in Zona Rosa. Consequently, the leftist liberals have lost all justification for not supporting President Reagan's initiatives. However, by accepting a report of this nature they would be justified in calling for an investigation to determine if, instead of ultraleftists, the crime was committed by people close to me.

So long as this is not clear, they could use this as a pretext to justify their opposition to Reagan's initiatives within the U.S. Congress.

In addition, it coincides with an analysis by the party [ARENA] in the sense that it could be a maneuver by the Salvadoran Government. As you see, after such a serious and great problem, the government is again talking about the ultraright, accusing it of this and that, instead of trying to find solutions for the tremendous problems we have in our country: unemployment, the high cost of living, and increasing devaluations. The government is using this only as propaganda or to be on the news.

What really bothers us is that ARENA believes it has been more than prudent in the face of the government's day-to-day mistakes. We have been prudent so no one can say that ARENA is trying to destabilize the government. We have not been attacking the government, and we have not issued any statement regarding the problems of the polemics with Msgr Rivera y Damas. No, we have not issued any paid advertisement in this respect. However, the reports keep saying that the ultraleft has said one thing while the ultraright has said another. These are invented mirages. These mirages are invented to have a topic to keep the Salvadoran people unaware of reality. It is a smokescreen, based on false reports and irrelevant topics, to divert attention from our reality. As I said, this is why I met with Hamilton.

[Reporter] As for this campaign that could begin in the next hours in the United States, should the report you have received be confirmed, how would ARENA and you counter this propaganda?

[D'Aubuisson] We have not decided that, but I do not think it is worth our time to counter lies. However, we wish this to be clarified at official levels. In this case, the official level available to us is the U.S. Embassy.

RUBEN ZAMORA DENOUNCES GOVERNMENT 'LIES'

PA060248 Paris AFP in Spanish 2211 GMT 4 Jul 85

[Text] San Salvador, 4 Jul (AFP) -- Salvadoran opposition leader Ruben Zamora, the number two man in the FDR, the political-diplomatic wing of the Salvadoran insurgency, denounced a campaign of "defamation and lies" by the government of Christian Democrat Napoleon Duarte. Zamora signed a communique issued by the Social Christian People's Movement (MPSC) and identified himself as secretary general of that organization, a splinter group of the Christian Democratic Party (PDC). Zamora is also a founding member of the FDR.

The government, via the Communications Ministry, published several manifestos in an attempt to link certain labor unions and student organizations to terrorist actions such as the 19 June massacre in a posh capital city neighborhood. Afterward, government circles implemented a campaign stressing that "the terror organization was uncovered" and that there are "contradictions among revolutionary fronts. According to the Duarte regime, this suggests "serious internal problems within the FMLN-FDR."

The Duarte administration said that FDR President Guillermo Ungo is "shirking responsibility for the mass order by saying that he does not share or approve the actions of his allies." It also criticizes the Independent Movement of Salvadoran Professionals and Technicians (Miptes), another FDR member, because it is also "shirking responsibility by saying that it does not seek to justify or condemn such an action and maliciously endorsing indecision."

As he reiterated his own stand and that of the MPSC, Zamora insisted on his "deep conviction" that the only way to achieve a just peace in El Salvador is via a serious, responsible dialogue. He said that such a dialogue cannot take place without the active participation of all social and political forces in El Salvador.

The FMLN, the armed branch of the Salvadoran rebels, claimed responsibility for the attack against four marines and justified it by claiming that it was a "just action against Yankee invaders." Meanwhile, Zamora's MPSC today condemned the use of state resources to carry out "ideological saturation campaigns to achieve personal and partisan political gains." The MPSC said that these kinds of campaigns constitute real obstacles to the achievement of peace demanded by the Salvadoran people and added that they pave the way for the establishment of conditions to "justify" the intensification of terror and state repression against the people and their organizations.

Finally, as an FDR member the MPSC reiterated its commitment to the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance's strategy to seek a sincere dialogue leading to the achievement of a political negotiated solution to the conflict as a "realistic initiative to achieve peace."

LETTER TO DUARTE FROM MORAZAN RESIDENTS AIRED

PA061518 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 2300 GMT
3 Jul 85

[Text] Attention, Salvadoran people and workers. We have a copy of a letter sent to Mr Napoleon Duarte, the high command, ministers, and deputies from the residents of northern Morazan Department, denouncing the outrages of the Armed Forces during recent operations in northern Morazan, which forced over 2,000 Salvadorans to abandon their homes. The letter demands respect for their right to work and sell their products and live in Salvadoran territory. Here is the text of the letter:

To the President of the Republic, Jose Napoleon Duarte; the defense minister, Eugenio Vides Casanova; the members of the General Staff of the national Army; the deputies of the Legislative Assembly; and Msgr Arturo Rivera y Damas, archbishop of San Salvador:

The residents of the Morazan Department hereby report the following:

On 14 June soldiers of the national Army, after a heavy bombing, were mobilized throughout the entire northern sector of this department, especially Rancho Quemado, El Carrizal, Los Patios, El Mono, Sabanetas, and Nahuaterique. From 14-19 June the Army officers intimidated and threatened us to make us abandon our homes and lands. The villages of El Palmar, El Mono, El Carrizal, Los Patios, Las Joyas, Los Naranjos, Sabanetas, Rancho Quemado, El Barrancon, and Nahuaterique had to be abandoned immediately, we were told. The officers said it was a military operation for us to leave the area; that we were responsible for giving supplies to the guerrillas. They told us that the Army had to evict us from our homes because we were like water to the fish; that is, if we were not in the area then guerrillas would have to leave.

They warned us that if we did not abandon the area we would suffer the same fate as the residents of El Mosote in 1981, all of whom were killed for not abandoning that canton. They told us that planes would soon begin dropping 700-lb and 1,000-lb bombs; that we had to leave because our land belonged to Honduras and had to be turned over as soon as possible to the Honduran Army.

The soldiers broke into our homes on the pretext of searching for weapons. They searched everything and stole money, clothes, and our livestock.

On Saturday, 15 June, an officer threatened and humiliated farmers Amador Guevara and Vidal Ramos of Los Patios. Many other persons were also humiliated and questioned. On Wednesday, 19 June, the soldiers menaced the residents of Nahuaterique, forcing them to destroy 20 manzanas of maize and burning 60 quintals of maize stored in the cooperative silos.

As a result of this inhuman attitude of the troops, who threatened and humiliated our people, over 200 peasants were forced to leave their homes. Being defenseless civilians who must look after the welfare of our children and elders, we were forced to go to the outskirts of Perquin, leaving our homes, lands, and livestock. We are over 2,000 civilians, all humble and working families who are suffering the most cruel and sad moments of our lives due to this unexplainable action by the Army.

We have only two alternatives. We can become refugees and join the thousands of poor Salvadorans who began their exodus south of Torola River and who are today enduring all sorts of calamities, such as the case of those displaced from San Francisco Togera who depend on charity, who are constantly humiliated, living without water, without shelter or medicine, with their children sick and hungry, without any possibility of finding work. Or we can stay in our homes and risk being subjected to reprisals by the Army, waiting for God to protect us from this barbarism.

In light of all the above, we ask of President Duarte, the defense minister, the members of the General Staff of the Army, and the deputies of the Legislative Assembly the following: Respect for our rights to live in our homes and lands; our right not to be expelled by the Army; to stop the destruction of our homes and land products; to cease the bombings against our fellow peasants and villages; to cease the arrests and outrages; to respect our sacred right to work our land and buy seed, fertilizer, and materials, and take them to our villages; to respect our right to market the products of our work and take groceries and supplies to our cantons and villages; and to respect our right to associate to work for the development and progress of our community.

We ask for economic and material assistance for the residents of the northern sector of this department for the reconstruction of their homes, cantons, and villages; to restore the schools and teachers in our villages so our children may enjoy their right to education; to reestablish clinics and health centers; and to recognize our right to live in our homes without being branded as subversive.

We demand recognition of our nationality as true Salvadorans and that the land in which we live and produce the bread for our children not be turned over to Honduras. The Salvadoran Government should demand that Honduras stop violating our territory with Honduran troops and their destructive actions.

We ask Msgr Arturo Rivera y Damas to be our benefactor and intercede before the government and Army of President Duarte so that our demands will be fulfilled. We do not want to be displaced; we want to live in peace and justice.

[Signed] The residents of northern Morazan, July 1985, Morazan, El Salvador

GUATEMALAMINISTER DENIES KNOWLEDGE OF ASYLUM REQUEST

PA061742 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0300 GMT 5 Jul 85

[Text] At noon today Guatemalan Foreign Minister Fernando Andrade Diaz-Duran was still making concise statements regarding an alleged case of mass asylum:

[Begin recording] [Andrade] The Foreign Ministry has no official report about what you are asking me. In the past some people have lived as guests or visitors inside an embassy. Our government gives everyone who wishes to leave Guatemala the opportunity to do so. However, we have received no letter requesting asylum.

[Reporter] Mr Foreign Minister, how can you explain the fact that the head of state has no information regarding the (?10) people who have sought refuge at the Venezuelan Embassy?

[Andrade] I repeat, officially there is no information. If there is anyone at the Venezuelan Embassy they are there as guests for a day or several days, temporarily. As I said, we reiterate a policy of absolute flexibility, and we are willing to cooperate with those people and help them leave the country if that is what they want.

[Reporter] What have you heard unofficially?

[Andrade] That there are some people, four I believe, a couple and their two children, who are guests of the Venezuelan Embassy. However, this is unofficial.

[Reporter] The family's name?

[Andrade] I believe their last name is (Cruz).

MILITARY POLICE INTELLIGENCE OFFICER KILLED

PA061349 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 1130 GMT 6 Jul 85

[Text] Eddy Fernando Paz Valencia, a lieutenant of the Mobile Military Police, PMA, was killed yesterday on the freeway turnoff on 13th Street in Zone 11 of this capital. The PMA lieutenant was killed by individuals traveling in a passing vehicle. According to reports, Paz Valencia was PMA director for intelligence services. The Army condemned the murder in a communique issued yesterday afternoon.

POLICE FIND BODIES OF SIX MEN; VIOLENCE CONTINUES

PA062257 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1234 GMT 6 Jul 85

[Text] Guatemala City, 6 Jul (ACAN-EFE) -- The bodies of six men with Indian features were found yesterday with their throats slashed in two departments in Guatemala, the police reported today. The authorities in Quetzaltenango Department, located in the western part of the country, found the bodies of four unidentified men on Friday.

The four bodies had their throats slashed, numerous bullet wounds, and their hands tied behind their backs.

The two other bodies, which also had their throats slashed, were found last night in Chiquimula Department, in the eastern part of the country. They were identified as Alejandro Mejía and Santos Ramírez García, 36 and 34 years of age respectively.

Eddy Fernando Paz Valencia, 28, an Army lieutenant and chief of intelligence (G-2) of the Mobile Military Police (PMA), was slain in this capital on Friday by unidentified men. Head of State General Oscar Mejía Victores said on Thursday that he would be forced to decree a state of siege if the wave of violence, which took the lives of 15 persons last week, continues.

GUERRILLA CAMP DISMANTLED NEAR MEXICAN BORDER

PA040045 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 2 Jul 85 p 5

[Text] The Army's Public Relations Office has reported that the Guatemalan Army discovered a guerrilla camp used for training and other activities near the Tzeja River, close to the Mexican border, north of Huehuetenango. According to reports, when subversives posted in strategic places to watch over the camp noticed that several military patrols from Huehuetenango and El Quiche were approaching the area, they sounded the alarm, and the group immediately fled to the mountains with whatever they could carry in order to look for a better refuge near the border.

The military patrols encircled the camp and entered through strategic positions. After confirming that no one was there, they dismantled the camp, finding a considerable amount of food, medicine, weapons that the rebels were not able to carry away, subversive documents, and special plans for attacks that were to be carried out by the group occupying the camp.

THREE GUERRILLA COMMANDERS ACCEPT AMNESTY

PA032246 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 2 Jul 85 p 4

[Text] Socotzal village, Flores, El Peten -- It was officially announced at the Danilo Henry Air Force Base in the northern region that three guerrilla commanders have laid down their weapons and turned themselves into the Army under the permanent amnesty law. The insurgents were identified as Oscar Tello, Oscar Rolando Morales, and Crisantemo Lemus who, upon handing over their weapons and accepting the amnesty, confessed their participation in armed actions against military patrols.

The rebels turned themselves in at this village, located on the asphalt road leading to the Tikal National Park, some 50 km east of the departmental capital. The amnesty seekers confessed that they had been living in a guerrilla camp known as Tres Aguadas, a few kilometers from Socotzal, where the rebels planned to open a training school. They recalled that the camp was discovered and destroyed by the Army in 1981 during a combined action by infantry and Air Force units. They added that, together with other guerrillas, they managed to break the military siege and escape through the dense jungle of El Peten Department.

The rebel commanders told journalists in El Peten that "they came to realize that the guerrillas are really a sham, since they do not fulfill their promises."

They added: We were deceived and now, tired of their promises, we have decided to lay down our weapons and accept the amnesty offered by the national Army, which is fighting alongside the peasants to relocate families that, like us, have been deceived by the enemy of democracy and men's freedom.

The rebel commanders said that following their defeat in Tres Aguadas they realized that the guerrilla activities in the region had failed, and since then they had incorporated themselves into families who live and work peacefully in Socotzal. However, they added, "We were afraid that the guerrillas could come any night to kill us." For this reason, we have sought the Army's protection, and we have rejoined our families in order to work, today more than ever, for the development of our homeland, they concluded.

NICARAGUA

ORTEGA DISCUSSES CURRENT NATIONAL SITUATION

PA062357 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 0050 GMT 6 Jul 85

["Face the People" program with President Daniel Ortega, Health Minister Dora Maria Tellez, "members of the national cabinet," and members of the Heroes and Martyrs National Confederation of Professional Associations, Conapro, at the Maestro Gabriel Professional Institute in Managua -- live]

[Excerpts] A few days ago, there was a special television program on the land settlements. It presented some interviews and films in a land settlement called El Escambray, in the Jalapa area. I was standing close to a television set that was on, and the program caught my eye, so I watched while a child was being interviewed. The 12-year-old child was being interviewed by a reporter from the Sistema Sandinista de Television who asked the child, among other things, how he felt in the settlement. The child said he felt fine, and when the reporter asked him what he would like to be when he grew up, he said: A compa [companion in the Sandinist Army]. She asked him why, and he answered: To kill the guards [former Somoquist guards].

It was difficult to hear this from a child. Prior to this, other children had been explaining how their parents had been murdered by the Somoquist counterrevolutionaries, how their homes had been destroyed, and how all the efforts of the revolution in the fields of public health and education were also being destroyed by the counterrevolutionaries. Another child said he feared for his life because the contras were killing children, as he had seen.

This child's answer -- the child who wants to be a compa, he wants to be a compa just to kill guards -- is an overwhelming answer that gives us an idea of the grave situation our country is experiencing. It also gives us an idea of the social impact this has in our country. It is really not fair for a child to think in such a manner. There is a brutal reality here, when a child sees his parents killed, and when he sees children being murdered. This is what makes a child think like that.

I was even more impressed when I read comments by a certain person who said he had been shocked to hear that child. We both agree on that. I was also shocked to hear a child speak like that. However, this other person said that it was all the parents' fault for not having given the child a Christian education. I wonder if this gentleman who said that has asked himself if that child's parents are still alive.

I think that a Christian education is needed, not by the parents who are being murdered, but rather by those who murder parents and children. Those who are financing these operations to murder parents and their children are the ones who really need a Christian education. In other words, President Reagan needs a Christian education. [applause]

Those who fail to see this reality also need a Christian education, those who do not date to point out the causes, the roots of the problem, but beat around the bush.

I chose to begin my statements tonight by recalling this incident, because this meeting and those we hold in Managua and in the Pacific sector, meetings such as "Face the People," are all held within a normal and secure atmosphere. This normalcy and security is backed by the defense of our territory, the defense of our country, above all, in the border area. We all know where Jalapa is. It is just a few kilometers from Honduras, where the mercenary counterrevolutionary forces have their bases. We all know that Jalapa is a symbol of the Nicaraguan people's resistance against imperialist aggression.

Therefore, we cannot fail to mention at all meetings, at all "Face the People" programs, this situation of aggression prevailing in our country. We are facing this aggression with our soldiers, our fighters, with the heroism of our peasants, those children, those people who are producing and working in those difficult war zones.

We are also defending the revolution in every effort we make in favor of peace and in every effort we make for the peaceful solution of the problems. We would like to see all these confrontations and this war come to an end. We want to see an end to the murder of children in our country, and stop children from thinking and speaking like that child spoke. If that child were not a victim of aggression, then he would probably say he wanted to become a professor, doctor, or lawyer [laughter], just to mention a few professions. [applause] However, the brutal situation of aggression, that terrorist policy that the United States maintains against our country, the constant, daily threat of U.S. intervention, that we might be bombed by the U.S. Air Force, all of this creates those situations. These are terrible, harsh, violent situations, but this is the only way our people are surviving and resisting.

If that child did not think that way, if he did not react in that way, then he would probably be a child insensible to the reality he is experiencing. He is merely responding to this reality, and he is replying in a correct manner. He is thinking of taking justice into his own hands, because crimes and outrages are being committed. Because there is terror, children are being murdered. His parents are being murdered in that area.

As I was saying, we are also making efforts in the international field to achieve peace. However, that depends particularly on the United States. Let the U.S. leaders listen to this: It is possible to find a peaceful solution to the problems in Central America.

We were listening with attention to the statements made by Companero Zacarias Mondragon, who is business administrator, as I understand. Anyone would think he was an expert in international law or foreign policy, and that he has attended the meetings we hold in the foreign policy commission when we discuss these subjects.

The Nicaraguan people have become experts in foreign policy. They closely follow foreign policy because our foreign policy is part of the defense of our revolution.

A few days ago, we sent a proposal to President Monge and he has sent a positive reply.

What did we propose? We proposed we begin to discuss immediately, and we told him we were ready to begin the talks next week, the idea of creating a demilitarized zone with international supervision in the border area. We proposed that the Contadora Group countries, that is, Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela, Panama, and France -- although France is not in the Contadora Group, it has always been very interested in the Central American problem, and meetings on this subject were held last year in France, which is a country that has international experience on this subject -- hold meetings to seek an agreement on a demilitarized zone along the Costa Rican-Nicaraguan border.

President Monge has sent a positive reply. He agrees, although it is clear that we must now await participation by the other countries, the Contadora Group countries and France, and then set the place for the meeting. Monge mentioned Panama. We would certainly agree to going to Panama for this meeting. We would send the Nicaraguan delegation there. The Costa Rican foreign minister has also said they would wait for the results of the OAS investigation.

I think, independent of the result of OAS investigations, we would have to leave as soon as possible to begin discussing the problem and to find a solution.

In other words, this is the latest proposal Nicaragua has presented. We praise President Monge's reply. Companero Sergio Ramirez is also visiting other Latin American Leaders. He met a few days ago with [Mexican] President De la Madrid, and with Brazilian President Sarney. He will soon meet Uruguayan President Sanguinetti, Argentine President Alfonsin, Peruvian President Belaunde Terry, and probably with Peruvian President-elect Alan Garcia. He will also visit Ecuador. In other words, he is conducting specific efforts for Nicaragua so Latin America will not yield to the pressures and blackmail of the United States which is trying to isolate the Nicaraguan revolution in order to justify its policy of aggression against Nicaragua and then launch a direct intervention against our country.

The most serious thing is that in the United States the issue of intervention is discussed in a most natural manner. Discussions are held about the cost of the intervention, considering if it will be too costly for the United States; that is what they are discussing, even though the U.S. Government insists on saying it is not invading Nicaragua. However, we all know that we cannot give credit to the statements of U.S. leaders. When they say no, one has to think it means yes; and when they say yes, one has to think it means no. In other words, one has to interpret them conversely.
[laughter]

We think that the explanation given by Companero Joaquín Solís on the topic of education was very opportune, because the news media have a yellow heritage. That yellow heritage makes the news media commit mistakes. The companero journalists are aware of the deficiency of their group. I met with them 1 week ago. Following a meeting, they presented their proposals here. They brought up the issue of press censorship and of foreign currency for some newspapers that need paper. At that time, we explained the censorship issue. In spite of everything that is said, there is broad dissemination of radio and press in this country. Just read the various newspapers and you will observe the political and ideological conflicts of the various political forces in this country. However, in view of the situation of aggression which we are experiencing, we cannot lift this restriction. We explained in great detail that there are emergency laws that are enforced in emergency situations.

There is no country in the world that escapes this. This even happens in the United States.

I was pointing out to the newsmen that when President Reagan invaded Grenada, he made use of an emergency de facto law, because he banned the U.S. press from covering the first phase of the Grenada invasion. Then the Pentagon had a monopoly on the information that was given to the U.S. public. They reported what the Pentagon wanted reported. They said this was necessary for the security of the United States. It was an absurd justification, they were looking for justification of a brutal action against a small country. Even then, they restricted the press, claiming it was for security reasons. In Latin America, in Europe, in all parts of the world these laws are enforced.

In other words, if we summarize the past 5 years and months of the Nicaraguan revolution, how many newspapers have been punished under the laws established in Latin America and Europe? How many newspapers and how many radio stations have been closed down? How many radio stations have been blown up with dynamite, as was the case with a Costa Rican radio station? How many newsmen have been murdered? However, that is not news.

Here in Nicaragua, you simply look at a newsman the wrong way, and that makes the news. Why? Because there is an interest in blowing everything out of proportion in Nicaragua. The truth is that press restrictions in Nicaragua are very limited, even when we experience a situation of intervention. The United States has been intervening in Nicaraguan politics for a long time. They are doing this through the mercenary forces and through the mercenary political groups that operate inside Nicaragua. They are intervening in our country, and we also face the threat of direct intervention by U.S. troops. Under these circumstances, we cannot be thinking of lifting these restrictions.

Then, we have the problem of foreign currency. Even textbooks that are so necessary have been affected by the lack of paper. The already existing newspapers have been forced to publish only a certain number of pages every week. Why? Because we have a difficult situation with foreign currency, and there is no country in the world -- including all of Latin America -- that is not making an effort to save foreign currency. The economic crisis is general. In addition, we are confronted with a political, military, and economic aggression from the United States.

A companero was referring to the economic measures. At the beginning of this year, we began enforcing a series of economic measures. Right now, we are evaluating the effects of these economic measures in order to readjust the economic measures.

The main objective of the economic measures is to increase productivity and production in this country. First, we want to increase production of export products and domestic consumption products, that is, food products. Unfortunately, we are not self-sufficient, and we have never been self-sufficient in food production.

Production is a basic element. All the measures are related to this -- the problems of salaries, prices, subsidies. This includes all the measures that have been taken concerning subsidies, salaries, production, and so forth, plus costs of production and readjustments in the production costs. All of these are aimed at stimulating this country's production.

To stimulate this country's production also means to stimulate the peasants by giving them land. The Nicaraguan agrarian reform policy has been a very careful policy in order not to affect the efficient producers. Recently, we negotiated with some landholders in Masaya to purchase their land, reach some agreement with them, and distribute it among the peasants. Masaya has traditionally been a densely populated area, and therefore there has always been a lot of pressure about land ownership. To ease the pressure, we proceeded with these negotiations.

Only one of them did not want to accept our proposals. Finally, we had to expropriate the land, not confiscate it. Confiscations are not being made in this country. The property of the Somozists and their accomplices was confiscated. We must insist on this, and let it be clear. Our enemies have been waging a campaign against us on this subject. A confiscation does not give the affected person a right to anything in exchange. However, in an expropriation, the affected person does have rights. The man whose property was expropriated has a right to receive money for the value of his property or receive land in another place, as Commander Wheelock said, so he can go there and work if he wishes to continue working in this country.

Where there once were only seven owners, we now have hundreds of peasant families owning the land. We have multiplied, if you wish, private property in Nicaragua, but to the benefit of needy peasants. The state has also done its share there, that is for the people, through the state. Why? Because now even the lands of enterprises have been distributed among the peasants. The productivity effort is a central effort for this country. All Nicaraguan producers play a role in this effort, whether they support the revolution or not, as long as they work efficiently and according to the limitations of our country.

They cannot ask us now to give them financial backing and foreign currency, all of the conditions that could be given in a developed country. No Latin American country would give them the conditions that are given to all producers here in Nicaragua.

He who wants to blackmail the revolution with the pretext -- if he is not given the conditions he wants, he will not produce -- should bear in mind that we have more than enough peasants here to till the land. [applause]

We are mentioning this, because we know that the politically inspired unions in the right wing are hoping for a Yankee intervention in our country. They are trying to blackmail us, to threaten us. It is necessary to point out that all of this coincides with the growing political and military tensions and the greater threats from the United States against Nicaragua.

One cannot fail to see a connection between this attitude and the situation of aggression. So, they should reflect and think it over and engage in production. He who wants to participate in politics, let him participate and join any party. However, he should not turn unions and groups into instruments of counterrevolution. [applause] Let them join any political party. There are many political parties here that might meet their hopes. There are right-wing parties that would like to return to the past.

Undoubtedly, in these difficult moments, we highly value the attitude of the experts who are working in the most difficult areas, in the war zones. We wish to congratulate the willingness of the companeras of the 5th Region who are volunteering to go to work there. There are also nurses who have offered to go to work there in the Atlantic region, in northern Nicaragua, the Coco River area.

It is a courageous attitude, a firm attitude. Just a few days ago, several Nicaraguan workers and an FRG collaborator were kidnapped in that area. Here, we already have a number of Nicaraguans who can take the place of the companeros who were kidnapped, and they are willing to replace them. [applause]

These companeras, these women, were telling me -- now I would not call them women -- because it would be strange if they were not women. [sentence as heard] [applause] The attitude of women in the revolution is an attitude of willingness, and this attitude no longer surprises us. The strange thing would have been if they would not have been willing to fight and be firm. Those are the companeras nurses, the health workers, and the social service workers.

These efforts in the war zones are very dangerous efforts. These efforts entail restrictions, which mean risks, undoubtedly. That is why we believe they occupy an outstanding position, they stand in the vanguard: all of those technical workers and professionals who are in the most difficult zones, particularly those areas that are threatened by the mercenaries of the U.S. Government.

PRESIDENT ORTEGA MEETS VISITING U.S. CONGRESSMEN

PA071741 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 7 Jul 85

[Text] Nicaraguan President Commander Daniel Ortega has met with two U.S. congressmen who are visiting this capital. After meeting last night with U.S. Representatives George Brown from California and Don Ritter from Pennsylvania, President Ortega told several newsmen that the Nicaraguan Government expects the Contadora Group and France to support the establishment of a security zone with international supervision on the border with Costa Rica. The Nicaraguan president said that the Congress is being pressured by the strength of the speech [not further identified] by Reagan which is elementary but has an impact. Ortega warned the congressmen that the United States is on the verge of making the same mistake as in the last century, when it invaded Nicaragua, and without wanting to, he noted, Congress is supporting the open military escalation against Nicaragua.

MIGUEL D'ESCOTO TO GO ON 'HUNGER STRIKE'

PY072209 Paris AFP in Spanish 2152 GMT 7 Jul 85

[Text] Managua, 7 Jul (AFP) -- Government sources have told AFP that Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto will begin an indefinite hunger strike this Sunday night to call for an end to U.S. aggression against Nicaragua. D'Escoto, a Catholic priest of the Maryknoll Order, will begin his hunger strike at 2000 local time, at the Monsignor Lezcano Church in one of the poorest neighborhoods of Managua. The Catholic priest has been the foreign minister of the Sandinist government ever since the victory of the revolution, 19 July 1979. In 1981, D'Escoto and three other priests who hold high-level government positions were punished by the Vatican, which prohibited them from exercising their duties as priests.

Statement on Fast

PA080335 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0136 GMT 8 Jul 85

[Statement by Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto Brockman at the Monsignor Lezcano Church Assembly Hall in Managua on 7 July -- live]

[Text] Following a lengthy process of prayer and meditation with the head of my congregation, bishops, priests, clergymen, and laymen, I have decided to accept Christ's call and begin a fast for peace, in defense of life, and against terrorism as a prophetic prayer so that the U.S. Government's state terrorism against Nicaragua is stopped.

In this way our people will be able to live in peace and dedicate all of their energies to national development.

I begin this fast first for the respect for life and self-determination that the people of Nicaragua, Central America, Latin America, and the world have a right to and second, as an expression of Christian rejection of the state terrorism policy imposed by the U.S. Government against Nicaragua; as a religious expression that condemns the systematic kidnappings, tortures, and assassinations of our sisters and brothers by the counterrevolutionaries financed and directed by the U.S. Government; and as a way to show my love for God, my people, and the church. I also want to prove my fervent desire that this will definitely stop the aggression and start a new phase in the relations between the United States and Nicaragua which is just and respectful of our rights as a sovereign and independent nation.

I wish to extend a hand in friendship to the U.S. people, fraternally inviting all Americans of goodwill to accompany us in this act of rejection so that we may all attain a just, durable peace. I also extend my hand and voice to the oppressed Latin American peoples who believe in God so that they strengthen, with prayers and their actions, the Nicaraguan people's hopes for justice. I also begin this fast as a way to unmask those who have abusively proclaimed themselves defenders of the most sacred Judeo-Christian values and are trying to justify their immoral and cruel war against Nicaragua with those values.

Sixth [as heard], to beg the forgiveness, grace of repentance, and rectification of those brothers in faith who should have denounced crimes against our innocent people but remained silent as accomplices of those who, following Herod's example, ordered the massacre of our children, women, elders, and youths.

Seventh, as testimony that our people and government only harbor the most sincere sentiments of Central American fraternity, estranged from any plans for intervention in matters that are the exclusive purview of Central American countries.

I ask the Lord to help the leaders who have wrongly allowed the use of their territories as bases of aggression against our people, thus becoming involved in an alien war that will not benefit their own peoples and represents a risk of incalculable consequences for the region. As a Nicaraguan, and from the deepest part of my being as a priest, I begin this fast and prayer to share the sorrow of my people who suffer the consequences of aggression; to accompany our heroic fighters who risk their lives in defense of our homeland; and to pray for all of my sisters and brothers who bear the burden imposed by those who are trying to deny us the right to live.

I pray for Daniel, our president, and for all of the leaders of our revolution so that the Lord never stops guiding their actions and so that they remain firm, as they have always done, beside the most humble and needy in defense of justice and national sovereignty.

I invite the holy father, our bishops, and religious leaders in Nicaragua and the world to accompany us in this act of prophetic prayer. I firmly believe that given the aggression, we must maintain and even step up our efforts in the area of military defense and security; in the diplomatic, economic, and production trenches, as well as in the legal sector where we continue to struggle so that our rights as a free and sovereign nation are respected.

However, I am aware that Christians -- in addition to supporting these efforts -- have something of our own to contribute toward the defense of our homeland on behalf of Christ our Lord.

As a Christian and a priest, I issue a call to all of my sisters and brothers in the faith so that this act of fasting and prayer lights up an evangelical insurrection throughout Nicaragua with methods of struggle taken from the word [Bible] which it is necessary to start using to prepare for the arrival of the new kingdom. We ask the Lord to multiply the U.S. people's pledge to resist and stop their government's aggressive plans, and to renew the energies of all those who struggle in the world for justice, peace, and against terrorism. I will continue this fast and prayer until that evangelical insurrection lights up in Nicaragua, and until the spark multiplies into actions of solidarity by women and men of goodwill in the United States, Latin America, Europe, and the Third World. [applause]

Discusses Foreign Minister Post

PA080407 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0153 GMT 8 Jul 85

[Foreign Minister Father Miguel D'Escoto meeting with unidentified reporters at the Monsignor Lezcano Church Assembly Hall on 7 July -- live]

[Text] [Question] Will you resign as foreign minister?

[D'Escoto] I wrote to our president, Daniel Ortega, 3 days ago to formally ask him to authorize a leave of absence from my responsibilities as foreign minister for the duration of the fast. He approved my request. Previously, I had asked for approximately 2 weeks of leave to pray -- as I mentioned in my statement -- with my superiors, brothers, priests, clergymen, and laymen. I concluded that in reality, my desire to carry out a lengthy fast and prayer in defense of peace, in defense of life, and against terrorism is something that God is demanding of me now. President Ortega understood this and granted me permission.

[Question] Have you consulted Cardinal Obando y Bravo about the fast?

[D'Escoto] I have consulted my religious superiors. In Nicaragua, superiors in my congregation referred me to the Esteli Diocese. I participated in a lengthy prayer and discernment period with the bishop of Esteli, as well as with laymen, priests, and clergymen in Esteli.

[Question] How long do you think your fast will last? What is the difference between a fast and a hunger strike?

[D'Escoto] Well, this is not a hunger strike although the U.S. media will probably call it that. However, at least in Spanish, a hunger strike is something done when one wants to demand respect for a right or benefit at the work place or to receive better food in jail. This is done to achieve respect for a personal right. However, fasting, as Father Jerez said during the mass homily, is a very ancient practice. It is not exclusive to the people of Israel and the Christians, but also practiced by other religious leaders. Fasting is a religious act in the tradition of the prophets, the greatest of which was Christ our Lord, who also carried out a lengthy fast.

In my statement, I said that I will maintain this fast and prayer period until our small spark ignites an evangelical insurrection in Nicaragua; that is, when all the Christian people resort to prophetic means to denounce crimes, torture, and the systematic kidnapping of our brothers and sisters by those who claim they do this in defense of evangelical principles that they obviously know nothing about because when they kill in the manner that they kill our people and when they deny our right to self-determination their actions and policy are trampling the people.

[Question] Father, do you think that the fast you start today will negatively affect relations between Nicaraguan church and Government?

[D'Escoto] I do not see how that will be possible; however, in truth I said that this act is not being done in an individualistic way or as a personal caprice. This is something I have been meditating, reflecting, and praying about in private and with my brothers in faith. We came to the conclusion that I must do it. I do not have the slightest doubt that the enemy will try to minimize and even ridicule it. However, I am not afraid of that just as I do not fear death. I always say: Thank you God for Christ, and thank you that I came after Christ. His life, his passion, and all of his suffering has given me the guidelines of what we must be ready to accept: to be ridiculed, like when he was crowned with thorns or when they shouted at him: If you are God's son, get down from the cross. That action can come from the power that is trying to destroy us; it could even come from some religious leaders. Didn't the same thing happen with Christ? Wasn't it the religious leaders in his time who took him before the representatives of the empire so that they would crucify him?

[Question] Father, is it true that your health is very delicate? Will this fast endanger your health?

[D'Escoto] I have enjoyed good health. It is true that I underwent serious surgery some months ago, and 3 months later I underwent surgery again for a minor problem that developed. However, we do not know what lies in the future. I do know that the Lord has called me to do this, and it has been confirmed through prayer, community prayer. I have said to the Lord that I am ready to accept his call. We will see what happens.

[Question] Father, when did you start thinking about the possibility of fasting?

[D'Escoto] I think that this concludes the 10 minutes so I will only answer this question before proceeding to [word indistinct]. The issue of the fast goes back a long time, to be frank, during my life and spiritual development as a Christian and a priest. It is linked to my viewpoint concerning the mystery of the cross and my belief that Christians -- even though Christ came 2,000 years ago -- had not and have not fully understood that the Lord used a prophet of our times, Martin Luther King, to help us reflect on a highly important evangelical dimension, which also has a bearing on my call to begin an evangelical insurrection. However, you ask when I began to think about the fast. I would say I thought about doing something approximately 8 months ago, but the final process, which leads to this conclusion, began last Thursday [corrects himself] 1 month and 3 days ago last Thursday.

RAMIREZ SAYS NEGOTIATED SOLUTION POSSIBLE

PA050305 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 4 Jul 85

[Text] Buenos Aires -- Nicaraguan Vice President Sergio Ramirez Mercado asserted that the United States practically declared the war on Nicaragua but, despite all the tensions and threats, the Nicaraguan Government believes there can be a negotiated solution to the crisis. Ramirez Mercado, who arrived en route to Brazil, pointed out that it is possible to reach a permanent understanding with the U.S. Government. That is what we are trying to attain with our diplomatic work, he said. Ramirez said that the U.S. Government's resolution authorizing President Reagan to intervene in Nicaragua under certain conditions, as specified in the document, is practically a declaration of war.

We are prepared for any situation but, above all, we are prepared for peace; we are exerting ourselves to attain peace, the Nicaraguan vice president emphasized.

RAMIREZ BRIEFS SARNEY ON AREA SITUATION

PA060451 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 5 Jul 85

[Text] Brazilian President Jose Sarney recommended the resumption of direct talks between the United States and Nicaragua during a meeting today in Brasilia with Nicaraguan Vice President Sergio Ramirez Mercado.

In declarations at Planalto Palace, seat of the Brazilian Government, the Nicaraguan vice president said he informed President Sarney about the situation in Nicaragua and Central America. He added that he expressed his concern over the situation in the area, and requested Brazil's intervention to strengthen the Contadora Group.

OAS ENVOY ON BORDER CONFLICT WITH COSTA RICA

PA050455 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 4 Jul 85

[Text] The Costa Rican Government has not issued an official statement at the OAS concerning Nicaragua's position on the border conflict, according to Father Edgar Parrales, Nicaraguan ambassador to the OAS.

Father Parrales stated that apparently Luis Alberto Monge's government has accepted one of Nicaragua's proposals. During an interview with the "Extra" newscast, our ambassador to the OAS offered further details.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Father Parrales, the Costa Rican news media state that the government in that country may request the enforcement of sanctions against Nicaragua within the OAS.

[Parrales] I was discussing that topic here a short time ago. However, as far as the OAS is concerned, they have not taken an official action. Is that clear?

[Reporter] Yes.

[Parrales] Thus far, no official measures have been taken. We have only heard their statements that measures would be taken. There is also something else, which is important. You know that President Ortega sent a proposal to President Monge on 27 June to create a joint demilitarized zone.

It seems that President Monge replied saying that he likes the idea and thinks it is positive. I am distributing a second letter issued by President Ortega in which he mentions President Monge's acceptance of the idea. Therefore, in the second letter President Ortega proposes specific steps that might be adopted.

Consequently, I think it would be contradictory if they accept a proposal that is aimed at definitely solving the situation, while issuing charges against us based on inconsistent evidence. The accusation must be specific, based on a measure that has been specifically created by the inter-American system; otherwise, they would continue in a generalized situation that is unfavorable to them. [end recording]

GOVERNMENT 'CATEGORICALLY' DENIES ATTACKING HONDURAS

PA051416 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1145 GMT 5 Jul 85

[Statement via telephone by Manuel Espinoza, information and press director of the Presidency from Managua to Radio America -- live]

[Text] I convey the Nicaraguan Government's categorical denial that the Sandinist People's Army and the Sandinist Air Force has shelled and attacked the places called San Antonio, El Jicaró, Alauca, and El Matapalo. We want to tell the Honduran Government, through this radio station, that the Nicaraguan people are a friend and brother nation of the Honduran people. Our two peoples have had a historic relationship.

If the incident you have reported in those places took place, it is because there are counterrevolutionary camps -- as is well known -- which are well armed and equipped, and are in possession of heavy weapons, and that these are to blame for the incidents in that region.

I repeat: The Nicaraguan Government categorically denies that it is involved in these actions. In addition, it reiterates its willingness for dialogue, negotiations, and understanding as the civilized means of achieving peace and normalcy in the relations between our countries.

AMBASSADOR CLAIMS BORDER ATTACKS GUERRILLA WORK

PA051444 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 5 Jul 85

[Interview with Danilo Abud, ambassador to Honduras, via telephone by unidentified Radio Sandino reporter; date not given -- recorded]

[Text] [Abud] This information, broadcast by the Honduran media, truly surprised us because of the degree of sensationalism given to it. Evidently, this lends itself to the U.S. plans for creating artificial situations that would justify a direct U.S. intervention against our country. Companero (Manuel Espinoza Henriquez), information secretary for the Presidency, addressed the Honduran communications media in an attempt to explain the situation to the Honduran people for them not to be provoked since the climate being created by the communications media is a warmongering climate. They were practically inciting the people to take action in face of alleged Nicaraguan attacks.

Following this, our Foreign Ministry sent a note to the Honduran Foreign Secretariat in which Nicaragua advised on this alleged attack in the hopes that they [Honduran Foreign Secretariat] would not fall for this type of provocation. The Honduran Foreign Secretariat replied to our note saying that they were not aware of this alleged Nicaraguan attack. This proves that Nicaragua was not lying and that the attack never took place.

[Reporter] Mr Ambassador, is this action within the framework of the Reagan administration's maneuvers to blame the Nicaraguan Government of alleged attacks an attempt to justify a direct invasion against our country?

[Abud] This is already known throughout the world. The foreign and local press have been witnesses.

They have visited those camps and have interviewed the counterrevolutionary leaders. They are always trying to deny the facts. However, since the problem is based on the fact that the counterrevolutionaries are present in the area and should an excuse be created for the Reagan administration to deploy troops to Nicaragua, then this would all seem to be a planned maneuver. That is, they are trying to create artificial situations, when probably the counterrevolution itself, because of the kinds of weapons that the Reagan administration has supplied them, could have carried out this alleged attack, thereby hindering relations between Honduras and Nicaragua and creating elements of tension that could be used by the Reagan administration to launch bigger attacks against our people.

[Reporter] What is the latest information available on the activities of the mercenaries who are attacking the Nicaraguan people from Honduran territory?

[Abud] In view of the victorious offensive that the Sandinist People's Army [EPS] has launched the mercenaries have been forced to withdraw into Honduran territory. Some believe that today's incident is a way to give them a breather and avoid the offensive and the strategic blows that our youths in the Patriotic Military Service and EPS are giving these mercenary troops.

ARDE REPORTEDLY SURROUNDS EPS IN LA PENCA

PA062300 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2106 GMT 6 Jul 85

[Text] San Jose, 6 Jul (DPA) -- The Democratic Revolutionary Alliance (ARDE) whose military leader is Commander Eden Pastora, former deputy interior minister of the Sandinist Government, today reported that its forces have practically surrounded the Sandinist People's Army (EPS) in La Penca.

According to ARDE, La Penca was occupied by the EPS a month ago but now the ARDE forces have surrounded the area and are not allowing the EPS to receive supplies by air. ARDE adds that it will recover La Penca at any moment. ARDE's bulletin also states that they are operating along an 83-km strip of the San Juan River, an area that they control extensively."

COSTA RICA CONFISCATES AID EN ROUTE TO MANAGUA

PA042155 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1750 GMT 3 Jul 85

[Text] Costa Rica has prevented Puerto Rican internationalists from bringing aid to the Nicaraguan people. Authorities at the Costa Rica's Juan Santamaria Airport confiscated a load of medicine and surgical supplies that was being taken to Nicaragua by one of the Puerto Rican volunteer brigades that arrived in Managua yesterday. The complaint was made by Carlos Davila, coordinator of the Roman Demetrio Onetario Betanse Technical Solidarity Brigade from Puerto Rico, who said that all possible efforts were made to recover the cargo, but were unsuccessful. An airport employee said that the cargo might possibly be sent later; however, no guarantees were given.

This technical brigade, the first group of health volunteers to visit Nicaragua, is made up of 11 persons: doctors, nurses, social workers and psychologists -- all Puerto Ricans. The 11 members of the brigade will remain in the war zone for a month treating peasants who need medical services.

FIDEL CASTRO ATTENDS JOURNALISTS CONGRESS

FL061728 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 6 Jul 85

[Excerpts] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee first secretary and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, attended the afternoon session of the international meeting of solidarity with journalists who undertake dangerous missions in Latin America. The event opened today at Havana's Palace of Conventions, organized by the International Organization of Journalists, the Federation of Latin American Journalists, [FELAP], and the Union of Cuban Journalists. During a break in the afternoon session, Commander in Chief Castro talked with the journalists.

As was the case during the morning session, the representatives of the various journalists' organizations referred to their colleagues who either have died or have been persecuted or tortured or have been exposed to other grave dangers while carrying out their professional duties. The Uruguayans gave thanks for solidarity with their people during the dictatorship; the Panamanians recalled how journalists in that country have been repressed by Yankee soldiers whenever they have accompanied the people in demanding sovereignty in the Canal Zone; the president of the African Journalists Organization referred to the validity and accuracy of Commander in Chief Castro's assertions on the inability to pay the international foreign debt; and the Ecuadoran representative condemned the existence of the so-called Radio Marti.

CASTRO SENDS MESSAGE TO CHRISTIAN PEACE CONGRESS

FL061547 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1400 GMT 6 Jul 85

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro has sent a message to participants in the sixth world Christian peace congress, which is currently under way in Prague. In the message he expresses the need to eliminate the danger of war and curb the escalation of imperialism's aggressive actions. Regardless of differences in philosophical views and religion, the aggressive line followed by the forces of imperialism and the profound international economic crisis demand joint forceful actions from all people of goodwill, Fidel notes in his message. Further on, he refers to the Third World's inability to pay its foreign debt. According to him, this peace congress plays an important role in the struggle against the poverty, unemployment, illiteracy, illness, and despair in which most people live.

REPORTS ON ACTIVITIES OF GEN RAUL CASTRO

Tours Guantanamo Factories

FL061515 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 6 Jul 85

[Text] Army General Raul Castro has toured Guantanamo Province, where the central event to mark the 32d anniversary of the Moncada victory will be held. In Guantanamo, Castro visited the (Guazo) tool factory and the local salt plant. Castro also met with members of the Young Worker's Army who are working on important projects in Caimanera municipality.

Attends Party Meeting in Santiago

FL061600 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1400 GMT 6 Jul 85

[Text] Army General Raul Castro, second secretary of the party Central Committee, is presiding over a party assessment meeting in Santiago de Cuba. The meeting is being held in the Higher Institute of Medical Sciences. The 315 delegates attending the event are reviewing the party's major socioeconomic activities and political-ideological work, as well as its internal tasks.

CARICOM SUMMIT ENDS; REACHES TRADE AGREEMENT

FL051414 Bridgetown CANA in English 0945 GMT 5 Jul 85

[By Reudon Eversley]

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, July 5, CANA -- Caribbean Community (Caricom) heads of government ended a four-day summit here last night, reporting agreement on the crucial issue of reversing a three-year slide in intra-regional trade, as well as air transportation and trade in agricultural produce.

Conference chairman, Barbados Prime Minister Bernard St John, said the meeting had produced a promising beginning of a new relationship in the area of cooperation between the two strongest Caricom member states, Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago, auguring well for the future of the 13-nation grouping. Don't let us fool ourselves, Caricom is now dependent upon the two countries whose economies are less affected by the recession, namely Trinidad and Tobago and Barbados, giving some potential hope to particularly the Windwards and Leewards, and giving some hope to at least an effort to marshall help from the international community for the two larger territories, Jamaica and Guyana, St John told an end-of-summit news conference.

The major focus of the conference was on how to get intra-regional trade moving again, the emphasis being on the implementation of the so-called Nassau Understanding, a package of proposals agreed on by the leaders at their 1984 summit. The pact calls for removal of protectionist policies hampering intra-regional trade, the raising of tariffs on a specified list of foreign goods to protect their regional equivalents, and in the case of the Windwards and Leewards, increasing from 20 to 30 per cent the domestic content of goods seeking to qualify for duty free entry in the Caribbean Common Market.

St John expressed disappointment that the remaining member countries which have not implemented the package already could not promise to do so earlier than August 31. The Barbados leader said another disappointment was the fact that the heads did not finalise an agreement for protecting the beleaguered regional garment industry, where hundreds of workers lost their jobs over the past two years.

The summit, at the luxury Sam Lord's Castle, 14 miles east of here, agreed on a new regime for trade in agricultural produce within the region. St John said the adoption of a common protective policy was indicative of the great forward movement we have had in this meeting. Noting that millions of dollars in foreign exchange left the region annually to pay for agricultural imports, he said the new arrangements, to begin taking effect on September 30, offered great scope for increasing intra-regional trade.

In the field of cooperation in air transport, St John said Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago had come to an understanding with regard to their two airlines, Caribbean Airways and BWIA [British West Indies Airline] International, exploring the possibility of operating a joint service between the Eastern Caribbean and the United Kingdom. He said the understanding came after like-minded Eastern Caribbean governments got together with Trinidad and Tobago and agreed they should jointly negotiate route rights to Britain with the UK Government to ensure that British Airways does not have undue advantage in the region. The idea here is that the joint service would enjoy the kind of rights British Airways now has to pick up and set down passengers between the Eastern Caribbean and London.

St John said BWIA had notified Barbados that it would shortly take up routes to Baltimore-Washington and Boston in the United States which Barbados and offered the airline three years ago.

So we have progress in BWIA taking up the route rights that were offered to the United States of America. We have progress in the understanding that the two airlines would get together and work out a method of operating with a single plane of larger capacity, so that we can do a European and a UK service to the Eastern Caribbean, he said.

On the subject of trade payments, another key agenda issue, St John reported movement towards clearing off some of the debts owed to the collapsed Caricom Multilateral Clearing Facility (CMCF) which allowed Caricom states to trade on a pay-later basis. What we did in respect of the facility was to extract very clearly an undertaking from debtor countries that they would make an extraordinary effort to at least settle their arrears, he said. Cash-starved Guyana, the largest debtor country, promised to supply Eastern Caribbean countries with sugar and allow all the earnings to go directly into the CMCF as a means of writing off some of the debt. The other debtor is Jamaica, which has agreed to pay off the U.S. 4 million dollars it owes. The CMCF went bust in April 1983 after its U.S. 100 million dollar credit was reached, largely due to Guyana's indebtedness linked to oil imports from Trinidad and Tobago. St John, expressing the view that there was too much indulgence by the more prosperous Caricom countries, said there will have to be new rules for a reactivated CMCF and these would have to be strictly adhered to. He said the meeting had clearly established the need for a new payments arrangement mechanism to provide credit for export trading on a long term basis.

Issues Communique

FL051310 Bridgetown CANA in English 1121 GMT 5 Jul 85

[Text of communique issued by the sixth meeting of the conference of heads of the Caribbean Community [Caricom], held in Barbados]

[Text] The sixth meeting of the conference of heads of the Caribbean Community was held at Sam Lord's Castle, St Philip, Barbados, from 1-4 July 1985. Twelve member states were represented at the meeting as follows -- the Rt Hon Vere Bird, prime minister, Antigua and Barbuda; the Rt Hon Sir Lynden Pindling, prime minister, the Bahamas; the Rt Hon Bernard St John, prime minister, Barbados; the Hon Manuel Esquivel, prime minister, Belize; the Hon Herbert Blaize, prime minister, Grenada, His Excellency Cde Forbes Burnham, president of Guyana; the Rt Hon Edward Seaga, prime minister, Jamaica; the Hon John Osborne, chief minister, Montserrat; Dr the Rt Hon Kennedy Simmonds, prime minister, St Christopher and Nevis; the Rt Hon John Compton, prime minister, St Lucia; the Hon James Mitchell, prime minister, St Vincent and The Grenadines; the Hon George Chambers, prime minister, Trinidad and Tobago. Mr Roderick Rainford, secretary general of the Caribbean Community, chaired the inaugural session.

At the beginning of the session, a minute's silence was observed in memory of the late prime minister of Barbados, the Rt Hon J.M.G.M. Adams.

The opening address at the inaugural ceremony was given by the prime minister of Barbados, the Rt Hon Bernard St John. In his address, the prime minister stated that the meeting came at a time when the economic problems besetting the region were reaching the point of genuine crises. The prime minister went on to urge the conference to guard against the forces that would divide and to focus on cooperation and mutual support which would lead to growth, development, and a better way of life for the people of the community.

Addresses were also given by the heads of government of the Bahamas, St Vincent and The Grenadines, Grenada, and Montserrat.

Prior to the meeting of the conference, the 27th meeting of the Common Market Council and the sixth meeting of the Standing Committee of Ministers Responsible for Industry were held to consider a number of important trade, economic, and industrial development issues, and to make recommendations thereon to the conference. The ninth meeting of the Standing Committee of Ministers Responsible for Finance was held on Wednesday July 3, 1985.

The prime minister of Barbados was elected by acclamation to chair the meeting.

The conference conducted its business through a plenary, a caucus of heads of government and economic and general committee.

The heads of government observed that the principle of multilateralism which characterised post-war international relations was under severe attack. As the tendency towards bilateralism and unilateralism has grown, it has inevitably led to the by-passing of the United Nations, the erosion of the authority of some UN agencies, the failure to provide international lending institutions with adequate resources, and diminished support for regional organisations.

They cautioned that any short term advantages which might accrue to some states from the decline of multilateralism would be more than counter balanced by a breakdown in consensus in several global issues and by an increased tendency to disruption and conflict in relations between states. They called on the international community to reaffirm and strengthen its commitment to the multilateral process and, in particular, to make greater use of the United Nations and its specialised agencies to resolve international problems.

In this context, they underlined the need for a return to effective global consultation on all major international issues. They emphasised the vital necessity of an international conference on financial and monetary measures and stressed that the proposed new round of trade talks would require careful consideration by the developing countries to ensure that their interests are fully taken into account. They also stressed that all such issues were the concern of the entire global community and their resolution was accordingly a matter for dialogue among all nations.

The heads of government called for a renewed series of South-South consultations on major international economic questions. They took note of current efforts at promoting economic cooperation among the developing nations and reaffirmed their intention to promote and actively participate in the furtherance of such cooperation.

The heads of government noted the particular difficulties facing middle income developing countries, with respect to commercial and concessional financial flows. In looking at the implications for the overall financial and development prospects of these states, they endorsed the proposal to establish a third window facility within the World Bank to ensure the continuation of concessional financial flows on terms more responsive to the requirements of these states. They felt, however, that such a proposal needed to be carefully studied, with a view to ensuring its effectiveness. They stressed the need for attention to be paid to the smaller developing countries in the region, which, through the strict application of the per capita criterion, are threatened with graduation, which would render them ineligible for the concessional funds from the International Development Association (IDA).

The heads of government, in reviewing developments in the international economy, noted the inter-relationship of international monetary, financial, and trade issues and stressed the need for an approach which takes account of this fact.

In examining those continuing social and economic hardships being experienced by developing countries as a result of their external debt situation, they emphasized the vital need for a general increase in the resources available to the multilateral financial institutions, so as to permit the financing of the overall development efforts of developing countries to assist them in creating the atmosphere of confidence necessary to attract increased investment flows.

On receiving a report on recent developments in the controversy between Guyana and Venezuela, the heads of government reaffirmed their previously stated position on the issue. They noted with satisfaction that relations between the two countries had improved and both sides had declared their firm intention to maintain this new climate through dialogue and ready cooperation.

They welcomed that determination as well as the steps being taken by the secretary general of the United Nations to choose, in accordance with the provisions of the Geneva Agreement, a means of peaceful settlement of the controversy which had arisen as a result of the Venezuelan contention that the 1899 arbitral award was null and void.

They regretted the maintenance of exclusionary provisions in some regional treaties and arrangements, despite previous calls for their removal. They urged, once again, in accordance with the principle of universality, that these restrictions be eliminated to allow those states which are desirous of adhering to those regional treaties and arrangements to do so.

The heads of government reaffirmed their support for the efforts of the government and people of Belize to consolidate their independence and preserve the sanctity of their constitutionally and internationally recognised borders. They noted with satisfaction that the Republic of Guatemala, whose persistent claim to the national territory of Belize had proved such an impediment to the latter's development, had recently displayed a degree of flexibility in the framing of its new constitutional provision on Belize. The heads of government expressed their hope that this progressive attitude on the part of Guatemala would soon be translated into a full recognition of the irreversible political and legal reality that is the sovereignty of Belize.

The heads of government welcomed the initiative which had been taken recently by the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) to focus attention on the specific problems of small island developing countries and to seek UN and other assistance to implement a programme of specific measures to assist these countries in overcoming the difficulties which derive from insularity and smallness. They urged that funding institutions and donor agencies should take account of the special circumstances of these small island developing countries in the allocation of resources, especially concessional resources.

The heads of government viewed with concern the continuing deterioration of the situation in Central America. They reaffirmed the view expressed at Nassau that notwithstanding ideological factors, the fundamental difficulties faced by the peoples of that region derived from deep-seated social and economic ills, and felt that the problem should be resolved in a manner conducive to peace, stability, and cooperation in the hemisphere. In this connection heads of government renewed their strong support for the Contadora process, and called for meaningful dialogue on Central America in an effort to achieve normalisation of relations.

The heads of government observed that the Middle East remained a hot-bed of tensions and conflict with a potential direct, super-power confrontation. They reiterated their conviction that the question of Palestine was central to the Middle East problem and that lasting peace in the region could not be established until the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to a homeland, were respected.

They considered that, in keeping with Resolution 242, the important elements in the settlement must also include: the right to self-determination of the Palestinian people, the withdrawal of Israel from occupied territories, and recognition of the rights of all states to live in peace within secure and recognised boundaries.

The heads of government expressed their profound concern at the prolonged conflict between Iraq and Iran, and called on both sides to commit themselves to an immediate cessation of hostilities -- a measure which would significantly help in providing a context in which mediation and eventual dialogue could begin.

The heads of government expressed their deep regret at the continuation of the tragic course of events in Lebanon, which has been the scene of strife and foreign aggression for many years. They committed themselves to the support of all steps which would lead to the early cessation of conflict and the preservation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of that country.

In their consideration of the widespread famine in Africa leading to starvation and death for large and growing numbers of people, the heads of government noted that while the international response has so far been impressive there was need for an intensification of such efforts if still more people were not to perish. They also expressed concern about the urgent need for donors and international agencies to begin at once to assist the peoples of Africa in putting in place new development structures which would help to ensure that there is no recurrence of the famine.

In reviewing the situation in southern Africa, the heads of government observed that the escalating repression in South Africa, the wanton killings, and the continuing raids into neighbouring states, especially the recent incursions into Botswana and Angola, have once again exposed the true nature of the racist regime of Pretoria. The regime has sought to conceal its real intentions by cosmetic internal reforms which in fact only serve to maintain and tighten the grip of the abhorrent apartheid system.

The heads of government noted with respect the high courage and fortitude displayed by the oppressed people of South Africa in the struggle to assume their rights in their own country, and expressed confidence in their ultimate victory. The heads of government considered, in particular, the recent barbarous raid into Botswana and the murder and abduction of civilians, including women and young children. They called on the international community to insist on the payment of full compensation for this wanton aggression.

They took note of the growing public opposition in many countries to the apartheid regime, especially in reaction to the most recent excesses, and expressed the hope that this might represent a trend that would encourage mounting pressure by those countries that are most able to exert influence on the racist government in Pretoria.

The heads of government reaffirmed their support for the oppressed people of South Africa, and renewed their pledge of solidarity with the frontline states. They restated their support for comprehensive mandatory sanctions against South Africa as a means of hastening the downfall of the apartheid regime and called on the entire international community to recognise the importance and urgency of exerting pressure to this end.

At the same time they urged the international community to provide in generous measure the assistance necessary to enable the Southern African Development Cooperation Committee to implement its programme for regional development.

The heads of government condemned South Africa's defiance of world opinion by the recent installation of a so-called interim government in Namibia. They joined with the overwhelming majority of the international community in declaring such unilateral action to be null and void. The heads of government considered that such action by South Africa and its insistence in linking the independence of Namibia to irrelevant and extraneous issues are tactics for prolonging occupation while Namibia's natural resources are being plundered. They pointed out that it is now seven years since the international community adopted Security Council Resolution 435 which established the basis for Namibia's independence, and they called upon the international community to make a determined effort to ensure that the people of Namibia under the acknowledged leadership of SWAPO [South-West African People's Organization] are enabled without further delay to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination and independence.

The heads of government also expressed full support for the resolution on Namibia of the Bureau of the Non-Aligned Countries at its extraordinary meeting of April 1985 in New Delhi and of the council for Namibia at its meeting in Vienna in early June 1985. They associated themselves completely with the recent decision of the Security Council as contained in Resolution No 566 of 19 June 1985 adopted at its session of June 1985 which was presided over by Trinidad and Tobago.

Heads of government considered the boycott of South Africa in international sport to which the governments and people of the region had given their consistent commitment and support. In this context, they endorsed the conclusions of the eleventh meeting of the Standing Committee of Ministers Responsible for Foreign Affairs in St Christopher and Nevis in May 1985 and reaffirmed their commitment to pursuing the objective of the Gleneagles Accord of eliminating sporting contact with South Africa, as well as reiterated their expectation of respect for both its letter and spirit by governments, sporting authorities, and sportsmen throughout the Commonwealth.

With particular reference to the forthcoming tour of the region by an MCC [expansion unknown] cricket team, they were at one in regarding as wholly unacceptable visiting players, persons currently in breach of the Gleneagles Accord as well as those expressing an intent to violate it through sporting contacts with South Africa. In this latter regard, they called for urgent clarification of reports of such expressions of intent lest they be both contemptuous of West Indian opinion and provocative in their implications. They agreed to consult further in light of such enquiries and the response to them.

In considering the operations of the CBI [Caribbean Basin Initiative] the heads of government of designated countries expressed the view that its provisions can contribute significantly to the expansion of trade between the beneficiary countries and the United States and can help to stimulate developmental activities. They exchanged views on the performance of the scheme in designated countries and agreed to monitor developments.

The heads of government reviewed action taken towards the implementation of the Nassau Understanding at the national and regional levels. They requested the CDB [Caribbean Development Bank] and OECS and Caricom Secretariats to continue efforts towards developing the various proposals into action-oriented programmes. They reiterated the need for the international community to support, in a timely manner, the national and regional programmes and projects in support of the objectives of the structural adjustment programme.

The heads of government noted the current status of implementation of the measures agreed to in Nassau which were originally to have been introduced by January 1. They reaffirmed that it remains the intention of member states to implement the measures, and agreed that the required implementation action that is still outstanding will be completed by all the member states concerned by August 31, 1985.

In considering the question of new marketing arrangements for primary agricultural products and livestock, heads of government agreed that the free trade, tariff and administrative arrangements that would give effect to a new marketing regime for the specified list of products to be put in place by September 30, 1985.

Heads of government also directed that consideration by member states of the draft schedule to replace Schedule VIII of the treaty [not further specified] should proceed expeditiously. They further agreed to establish a committee to review the functioning, financing and impact of the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI). The committee will report to the Standing Committee for Ministers Responsible for Agriculture in October.

Heads of government re-emphasized the importance of payments and credit facilities to the revitalization of intra-regional trade. In this context, they reviewed the status of the CMCF and agreed to continue bilateral discussions with a view to finding a workable settlement. Debtor countries undertook to try to reduce their indebtedness to the facility and in this regard it was agreed to encourage member countries to purchase their sugar from regional suppliers in surplus. The proceeds of such sales would be applied to reduce the debt owing to CMCF.

Heads of government expressed interest in a proposal for the creation of a trade credit facility which would provide credit for trade in specified products with the potential to be internationally competitive. Heads of government expect the proposal to be fully worked out for a decision to be made before the end of 1985.

Heads of government agreed that every effort should be made to promote the development of entrepreneurial, managerial and technical skills in the countries of the region, to enable them to move from their inherited narrow and fragile economic base to a more diversified, resilient and self-reliant economy. They undertook to review their education and training systems so as to place more emphasis on science and technology and on the development of initiative and self-reliant attitudes.

They also decided, wherever feasible, to pool on a regional basis highly trained professional and managerial manpower as well as indigenous entrepreneurship. They also pledged themselves to intensify their individual and collective efforts to find a solution to the problem of the brain-drain. The Barbados consensus on development of local and regional entrepreneurship and skills in the member states of the Caribbean Community is attached.

Heads of government received reports on the status of the implementation of the Nassau decisions on relations with third countries in region. In particular, they noted and welcomed reports of progress in the convening of the joint technical groups which are to devise a programme of cooperation, particularly in the field of trade with Haiti, the Dominican Republic, and Suriname. These three countries have now been accorded observer status on the Standing Committee of Labour, Agriculture and the Conference of Ministers of Health, while the Standing Committee of Ministers Responsible for Education is currently completing arrangements to do the same. They expressed their approval at the steps being taken to convene the second meeting of the Mexico-Caricom Joint Commission later in the year. Finally, they noted the initiatives taken to develop relations with the Andean Group as had been mandated in the Nassau Understanding.

The heads of government reviewed, from the perspective of the Caribbean, the outcome of the negotiations between the EEC and the ACP [African, Caribbean and Pacific states] which had been concluded with the signing of the Third Lome Convention. The heads of governments directed that the Common Market Council should keep under constant review the implementation of the convention with the aim of making recommendations, as necessary, on the ways and means by which Caricom member states may take more effective advantage of the opportunities for trade and development offered by the convention.

The heads of government reiterated their general commitment to WISCO [West Indies Shipping Corporation] as a vital part of the infrastructure of the integration movement and agreed that steps should be taken to ensure that WISCO overcomes its present funding difficulties.

Heads of government of Barbados, Grenada, Guyana, St Christopher and Nevis, Saint Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago discussed the need to optimise the use of their route rights to promote their social and economic development. They agreed that a joint co-ordinated approach should be taken when necessary to ensure that regional aviation interests are advanced.

Heads of government reaffirmed the commitment to LIAT [Leeward Island Air Transport] (1974) Ltd as the intra-regional carrier.

Heads of government were made aware of certain problems in the intrasit arrangements for passengers and goods passing through international airports within Caricom. Heads of government decided that the problem should be examined and a report made to the next regular meeting of the Common Market Council.

In the conviction that energy remained an important priority for the region, heads of government reaffirmed support for the Regional Energy Action Plan (REAP). The major objective of the REAP is to alleviate, within the shortest possible time, the adverse impact of the energy crises of the 1970's on the Caricom economies, while at the same time providing for a more co-ordinated and rational development of the energy resources in the region. The meeting urged the Caricom Secretariat and the Caribbean Development Bank to continue their efforts to mobilize the resources required for implementing the REAP as originally conceived.

Heads of government expressed grave concern over the increasing traffic in, and abuse of, narcotic substances which pose a serious threat to the economy and security of member states and to the health and welfare of their people. Recognizing the regional dimension of the drug problem, they stressed the need for improved co-operation and consultation between regional and extra-regional law enforcement and social agencies; supported the mandate given to the Secretariat at the eleventh meeting of the Standing Committee of Ministers Responsible for Foreign Affairs to collate information on drug trafficking, drug transshipment, drug abuse and rehabilitation in the region; and urged individual governments to strengthen the policing of seaports and airports in order to curtail their use as transshipment points for illegal drugs.

Heads of government referred the study of decision-making conducted by the Caricom for further consideration at the national level. It will be recalled that heads of government, at their fifth meeting in Nassau in 1984, considered the matter of decision-making in the Caribbean community, and requested the secretary-general to conduct a study in consultation with member states of the system of decision-making under the treaty of Chaguaramas, with a view to identifying areas of decision-making in the community, in respect of which consideration could be given to the introduction of a voting procedure other than by unanimous vote. Heads of government mandated the secretary-general to convene a meeting of appropriate national and regional officials to review the report and the comments of members states, and formulate final recommendations in time for submission to the next meeting of the conference.

Heads of government accepted the offer of the Government of Guyana to host the seventh regular meeting of the conference of heads of government in July 1986.

TRINIDAD-TOBAGO, JAMAICA TO MEET ON TRADE PROBLEMS

FL051603 Bridgetown CANA in English 2254 GMT 4 Jul 85

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, July 4, CANA -- Government and private sector delegations from Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaica are to meet in Port-of-Spain this month to begin working out a formula for ending a trading stalemate between the two Caribbean Community (Caricom) states, it was officially announced here today. Jamaica Prime Minister Edward Seaga told a news conference the meeting, towards the end of July, emerged from the failure of bilateral talks at the current heads of government summit here to effectively deal with a dramatic fall in trade between Kingston and Port-of-Spain.

Seaga said the problem was that for different reasons the products of the two countries had not been penetrating each other's markets. The problem in one case was that products from Kingston were now too competitive in Trinidad and would thereby sell readily to the detriment of that country's manufacturers, Seaga said. On the other hand the Trinidadian products are unable to penetrate the Jamaica marketplace because they are not competitive, because of the differential at present existing with the devaluation (of the Jamaica currency). The bottom line, he said, had been that Port-of-Spain, unable to maintain its export levels to Kingston in the circumstances, had imposed import restrictions to adjust the balance of trade.

According to official figures, Jamaica's trade with the rest of the Caribbean Common Market fell by 67 per cent in the last three years, hitting a low of EC99.4 million dollars (one EC dollar: 37 cents U.S.) in 1984, compared with EC302.6 million in 1981.

Trinidad and Tobago was the only Caribbean Common Market member to record an increase in intra-regional imports last year -- EC375 million dollars, compared with EC344.4 million dollars in 1981, when the total value of intra-Caricom trade peaked at EC1.6 billion dollars.

Seaga said the two countries had agreed to identify a range of each other's products which would not be subject to any import restrictions, and another list of goods transactions in which there would be a quota basis. The details of the arrangement are to be worked out during the bilateral meetings, he said.

The Jamaica leader said that in the summit discussions here he had agreed that Kingston would shortly clear off its U.S. 2.4 million dollar debt to the suspended credit facility that used to support intra-regional trade. The so-called Caricom Multilateral Clearing Facility (CMCF) collapsed in April 1983, with Guyana its heaviest debtor, still owing about U.S. 60 million dollars plus accumulated interest.

GUYANA'S BURNHAM ON TERRITORIAL DISPUTE WITH VENEZUELA

FL041614 Bridgetown CANA in English 1600 GMT 4 Jul 85

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, July 4, CANA -- Guyana says it expects word shortly from the United Nations on the progress of efforts to resolve its territorial dispute with neighbouring Venezuela.

We expect the secretary general's proposals to be proffered in a matter of weeks, Guyana President Forbes Burnham said in an interview here, where he is attending a Caribbean Community (Caricom) heads of government summit.

Venezuela has a century old claim to nearly two-thirds of Guyana, including the mineral rich Essequibo Region, and the issue has been referred to the UN secretary general to devise a means of settlement.

Burnham said Venezuela was still interested in direct access to the Caribbean Sea, and the forthcoming settlement proposals would have come out of consultations by the secretary general with both Georgetown and Caracas.

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

BIRD ANNOUNCES 'SUBSTANTIAL ASSISTANCE' FROM PRC

FL052121 Bridgetown CANA in English 2056 GMT 5 Jul 85

[Text] St John's, Antigua, July 5, CANA -- Antigua and Barbuda says it expects substantial assistance for its agricultural, fisheries, food processing, and manufacturing sectors from the just-concluded official visit to China by a government team headed by Deputy Prime Minister Lester Bird. Bird, who returned home Wednesday with a severe cold, said in a statement today that during the five-city tour, discussions between delegations from the two countries were characterized by a willingness to help our development and a readiness to respond to our priorities.

The Chinese Government, Bird said, had agreed to provide a grant of two million dollars to be used for the development of agriculture and fisheries. This includes the establishment of a cotton plant, the expansion of the food processing capacity of our laboratory, installing a seed room for storing vegetable seeds at the Central Marketing Corporation, equipment for dam construction and irrigation, and finally, providing equipment for local fishermen, the deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs said. Beijing will also provide raw materials for light manufacturing industries on a system of deferred payments, as well as enter into joint ventures in a number of manufacturing industries. Bird did not identify the joint ventures, he said for reasons of competition with other countries which have the same market access as we do. He said however, that the private sector was not debarred from benefitting under the joint venture scheme, nor from the system of deferred payments.

Over the next few weeks, Bird said, contact would be made with the manufacturing sector to identify raw materials from China which they might be interested.

Bird added: I wish to state that my delegation was extremely satisfied with the visit to China. We were deeply impressed with the willingness of the Chinese Government to deal with us on a basis of equality and mutual respect. We were also struck by the readiness to accommodate our free enterprise system and to co-operate with it. No attempt whatsoever was made by the government to dictate terms or demand conditions for their assistance. In this regard, I believe that Antigua and Barbuda can look forward to a long and beneficial relationship with a nation which, in the next 15 years, will rank in economic terms as one of the strongest in the world.

The Antigua and Barbuda deputy prime minister rejected what he said was criticism in his absence by fellow Antigua Labour Party parliamentarian Joseph Myers about the size of the delegation and the expense to the government. First of all the journey of my delegation cost the government of Antigua and Barbuda only a single passage for one member of the delegation, namely Mr Eden Weston, a senior economist in my ministry and, incidentally, a leading member of the constituency represented by Mr Myers. The remaining passages and expenses in China were met by the Government of the People's Republic of China. Second, the size of the delegation was in conformity with the invitation extended by the Chinese Government and represented certain expertise and experience required for the visit.

Third, the cost of passages, which was met by the Chinese Government, allowed my delegation to visit Hong Kong and New York to meet investors: the only cost to the government was hotel expenses. Fourth, my delegation secured over five million dollars in assistance from the Chinese Government, two million of which is a grant for projects in agricultural development.

The team to Beijing included Agriculture Minister Robin Yearwood and minister without portfolio, Robin Marshall.

DOMINICA

PRIME MINISTER CHARLES' NEW CABINET SWORN IN

FL051300 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1030 GMT 5 Jul 85

[Text] A new cabinet in Dominica has been sworn into office following last Monday's parliamentary victory by the ruling Dominica Freedom Party. The new 8-member cabinet is headed by Prime Minister Eugenia Charles who has retained responsibility for finance and external affairs. Though there was much reshuffling, the minister of education is the only new cabinet member, having been promoted from junior minister.

GRENADA

CUBAN LAWSUIT CONCERNING AIRPORT TO BE CONTESTED

FL051420 Bridgetown CANA in English 1917 GMT 4 Jul 85

[Text] St George's, Grenada, July 4, CANA -- The Grenada Government plans to contest a near six million dollar (one EC dollar: 37 U.S. cents) law suit brought by Cuba seeking compensation for equipment used in building the Point Salines International Airport, authoritative sources said today. The sources told CANA the government had accepted an independent legal opinion that it had a good chance of proving that the equipment, which includes tractors and trucks, was owned by Grenada.

The Herbert Blaize administration had sought an outside opinion because it was divided on whether or not to contest the suit. The ball is now in the Cuban court to take us to court to prove their point. We are ready for them, a government source said.

Cuba had contributed men and equipment to build the airport but before it could be completed, the Cuban workforce was expelled in the wake of the U.S.-led invasion of Grenada in 1983. The Americans had acted to remove a military government which had overthrown the People's Revolutionary Government and executed Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, then Havana's closest ally in the Caribbean.

The interim government, which ruled for a year until last December and brought Blaize to power, told Cuba last year that from the legal documents some of the equipment was paid for and insured with Grenada Government funds, while the rest of the equipment was a gift.

Shortly after the invasion, Grenada also expelled all Cuban diplomats with the exception of Charge d'Affaires Gaston Diaz who subsequently left.

BRITISH COMPANY SEEKS PAYMENT FOR AIRPORT WORK

FL051625 Bridgetown CANA in English 1351 GMT 4 Jul 85

[Text] St George's, Grenada, July 4, CANA -- A Grenada Government delegation has held talks with the British company Plessey Airports Ltd, following its recent letter to the government seeking nearly nine million pounds sterling owed for work done at the new international Point Salines airport. A government statement said the Grenada delegation was led by Civil Aviation Minister Dr Keith Mitchell and included Junior Minister of Communications and Works Kenny Lalsingh and Otto George, permanent secretary in the Ministry of Communications, Works, Public Utilities and Civil Aviation. In its letter to the seven-month-old Grenada Government, Plessey called for immediate payment of the money owed. The release said the meeting between the two was held with a view to finding solutions to problems affecting the company's work programme at the airport. Plessey was contracted to install the navigational equipment. The government said the main problem regarding the continued operations of Plessey revolved around the scheduled servicing of the loan governing its work programme at the airport. The contract value of the loan negotiated between the then People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) of slain Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and the British multinational company now stands at 8.43 million pounds sterling. Under the terms of the contract, Grenada is expected to pay the company 470,000 pounds sterling every six months. The interest on this loan amounts to 230,000 pounds during this period. The first payment should have been made in April. The release said the stiff terms and conditions relative to the scheduled repayment of the loan were appalling in light of the present state of the Grenadian economy. Under those contracted arrangements, unbearable hardships were placed on the government and people of Grenada, it added. The release quoted the Plessey officials at the meeting as expressing sympathetic understanding regarding the arrangements over which they had no control, while indicating a willingness to complete their training and other operations at the airport despite the current problems.

JAMAICASEAGA DEFENDS GOVERNMENT HANDLING OF STRIKE

FL051236 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1030 GMT 5 Jul 85

[Text] Jamaican Prime Minister Edward Seaga has defended his government's handling of the general strike in his country last week. He played down the strike, saying only 6 of the country's 30 unions were involved. He said some leaders of the strike were suspended from their jobs because they violated Jamaica's Essential Services Act. The disciplinary actions taken against striking workers have been sharply criticized by the opposition People's National Party.

NETHERLANDS ANTILLESPETERS ILL; MAY CANCEL VENEZUELA VISIT

FL061348 Hilversum International Service in English 1030 GMT 6 Jul 85

[Text] The prime minister of the Netherlands Antilles, Mrs Maria Liberia Peters, is unlikely to pay her planned visit to Venezuela. She has been unexpectedly taken to the hospital. It is not known how long she will stay there. In mid-July, the Antillean prime minister, together with Dutch Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers, was to have conducted talks in Venezuela on deliveries of crude oil at a special rate to the loss-making Shell Oil Refinery on the Antillean main island of Curacao.